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STUBBORN ITALIAN RESISTANCE AT BARDIA

HALIFAX MAY GO TO U.S.

(BY REUTER'S LOBBY CORRESPONDENT)

A name which is now being seriously canvassed in well-informed circles in London for the next British Ambassador to the United States is that of Lord Halifax, the Foreign Secretary.

As a former Viceroy of India and Foreign Secretary for a number of years he has had wide experience of government and also would be able to take with him to Washington an extensive knowledge of the whole war situation.

If Lord Halifax accepts this appointment, some Cabinet changes are certain to take place and little surprise would be caused in political circles if Mr. Lloyd George joins the War Cabinet in an unadministrative capacity. — Reuter.

MACHINE-GUN ATTACK ON LONDON STREET

A lone twin-engined German bomber dived to within about 150 feet of the ground to machine-gun pedestrians in a district on the outskirts of London yesterday but no-one was hurt.

This was one of the few incidents of enemy air activity, which is described as slight, during the hours of daylight yesterday.

A few bombs were dropped in the London area, causing a small number of casualties and some damage to buildings. — Reuter.

ITALIAN AIR RAIDS

ITALIAN RAIDS ON BRITISH TERRITORY IN THE PAST FEW DAYS HAVE BEEN SINGULARLY INEFFECTIVE.

Italian planes tried to raid Aachen yesterday. No damage was done and there were no casualties.

Malta was raided the same night. The raid was a failure.

One of our 8-gun fighters shot down a Savoia-79 bomber in flames into the sea. The crew was lost.

There was no damage to Service or civilian property, and no casualties. — Reuter.

Tank Units Thrust Into Outer Perimeter

NO SUCCESSOR TO KENNEDY YET APPOINTED

No one has yet been asked to fill Mr. Joseph Kennedy's place as Ambassador to London, President Roosevelt told his press conference in Washington yesterday.

The President reiterated the opinion that his plan for "leasing and lending" war material to Britain would require Congressional action to make it effective but repeal of the Johnson Act would not be necessary. — Reuter.

SHOCK FOR ITALIAN CONSUL

An anti-Fascist demonstration by Italian officers interned in Yugoslavia took place at an internment camp in Slovenia, when the Italian consul-general in Ljubliana visited his compatriots there, according to a despatch from Maribor to the Free French news agency in London yesterday.

The Italian consul is reported to have called the Italian soldiers traitors in the presence of their Yugoslav guards and warned them they could never hope to return home.

One of the Italian officers replied: "Your threat does not frighten me because I think that you and the Duce will soon not be able to show yourselves in Italy."

The officer added that the revolutionary situation was developing in Italy. — Reuter.

BRITISH MECHANISED FORCES OPERATING AROUND BARDIA WERE LAST NIGHT REPORTED TO BE THRUSTING INTO THE OUTER PERIMETER OF THE ITALIAN DEFENCES; THESE DEFENCES EXTEND AROUND THE PORT IN AN ARC APPROXIMATELY 15 MILES LONG.

The beleaguered Italian garrison is continuing to put up very stubborn resistance in the face of attacks of the British and Imperial troops.

Meanwhile the manner in which supplies have continually reached the most advanced British forces is astonishing.

Supply units following the advance include not only well-equipped medical services but even canteen stores.

The R.A.F. is unremitting in its support. Its spirit is typified by an Order of the Day issued by one Air Commodore.

"Squadron leaders will expect every man to do his duty in the righteous cause we have at heart." Apart from showering bombs the R.A.F. has dropped leaflets on Bardia, enumerating the numbers of Italian prisoners captured, mentioning all generals individually and calling on them to surrender.

Attack Not Pressed

"Do not provoke further loss of life by continuing to resist" is the exhortation contained in the leaflets.

On Wednesday night a British patrol probed Bardia's defences but found some resistance and did not press the attack, leaving Bardia open to subsequent terrific blasting by the R.A.F.

Cairo Communique

There is no change in the situation round Bardia, stated a communique issued in Cairo yesterday.

Patrolling activities in the Galabat-Kassala area continue.

A party of East African troops overtook Italians who raided the village of Boran, in the northern frontier district of Kenya.

Two Italians were killed and 70 camels and equipment captured without loss to the British.

R.A.F. Vigilance

Italy's vital communication arteries are being watched with hawk-like vigilance by R.A.F. reconnaissance machines and any sign of movement brings up at whirlwind speed flights of eight-gun fighters.

Meanwhile Bardia is receiving constant attention from British bombers, which are hurling tons of high explosive bombs on the barracks and

jetty in order to frustrate any Italian attempt to reinforce the garrison from the sea.

Nature Of Siege

The attack on Bardia has been increasing with steady velocity and, entering on its third day, it assumed the nature of a siege.

The Italian garrison, who are well supplied, are endeavouring to hold on to the bitter end.

There is no information whether Graziani is trying to rush reinforcements along the coastal road from Tobruk but the military spokesman told Reuter that any attempts made by an enemy co-

DEEP GREEK ADVANCE

(BY REUTER'S SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN GREECE)

Aided by a slight improvement in the weather the Greek army has been able to move more freely in many parts of the 80-mile long battlefront in Albania.

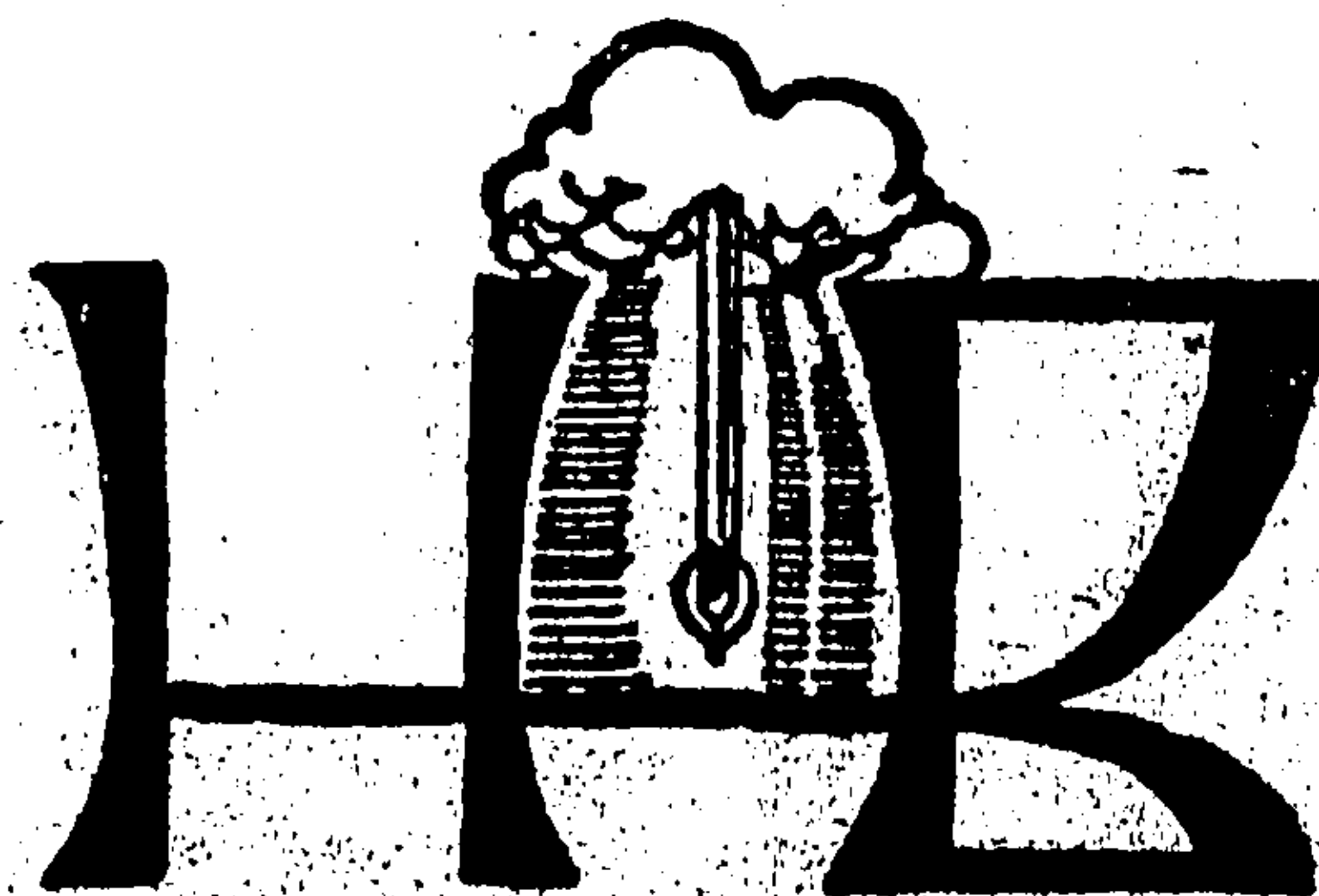
The Greek advance in some sub-sections of the front was especially deep on Thursday and has opened the way for further progress.

A fine example of the determination of the Greek nation in war was given in the past 48 hours in certain frontier regions.

Owing to heavy snowfalls in the mountainous countryside some roads were in danger of being blocked, but when the Minister of Public Security gave an order that all healthy women and children in the affected district should take spades and clear the roads as soon as possible, the work was cheerfully carried out. — Reuter.

lumn to push up this road would be met with very fierce fire from the British forces who are cutting off approach along the coast. — Reuter.

HAVE AN H.B.—



—AND THEN TRY!

New Phase In Nazi-French Relations Apparently Opens

Weygand In Africa The Trump Card

GERMAN DEMANDS ON VICHY

The Vichy Cabinet met yesterday under Marshal Petain, and although absolute silence is being maintained about what happened, it seems probable that the Nazi demands formed the chief topic of discussion.

Neutral observers in Berlin understand that the German demands include a free passage for Nazi troops to the Italian frontier and the linking of France to German war strategy in place of Italy. This last possibility is causing some concern to Rome.

Observers there insist that France will be treated as a vanquished nation, not one at peace with the victor.

Italy is not being left in the cold, these same Rome observers insist.

While she is not taking part in the talks, Italy is being informed of developments, say these observers.—Reuter.

THE MEETINGS of the French Cabinet are believed in London to be due to the new phase in Franco-German relations caused by the dismissal of Laval and Abetz's visit to Vichy.

Reports from Vichy strengthen the impression that Marshal Petain and Flandin are willing to envisage closer economic relations with Germany, at Abetz's behest, but that any German demand in excess of the armistice terms would be resisted by Marshal Petain, whose trump card is the presence of General Weygand in Africa.

BRINDISI BOMBED

AIRCRAFT OF THE R.A.F. ATTACKED THE IMPORTANT ITALIAN TOWN OF BRINDISI ON THURSDAY NIGHT, SAYS A ROME ANNOUNCEMENT.

The Italians say that the British machines came over in four waves.—Reuter.

It is said that Marshal Petain has had to make certain concessions to Abetz, including the liberation of the Comte de Brinon, as French delegate to the occupied zone.

Seemingly the Germans, realising that Laval was too discredited to serve their purpose in office again, selected de Brinon as an alternative tool.

It is thought, however, that the Franco-German situation is unlikely to undergo much change at present.

Military Position

Germany already controls French industry, while if she made demands of a military nature she would risk forcing Marshal Petain to resign and give General Weygand the signal that the time had come to resume resistance.—Reuter.

TARANTO OFFICERS DECORATED

The deadly blow struck at the Italian navy when the Fleet Air Arm made its daring raid on Taranto is recalled by the announcement in last night's London "Gazette" of honours conferred on six of the officers concerned.

Two are made Companions of the Distinguished Order, namely Lt-Comm. John William Halt and Lt-Comm. Kenneth Williamson, both of the aircraft-carrier "Illustrious."

The other four, who receive the D.S.C., are Lt. George Albert Carline and Lt. Norman John Scarlem, also of "Illustrious," and Lt. David Gordon Goodwin and Capt. Oliver Patch, Royal Marines, of the aircraft-carrier "Eagle."—Reuter.

STOCK EXCHANGE ENLIVENED

After early quietness the news of the latest naval action in the Mediterranean imparted a better disposition on the London Stock Exchange yesterday and several sections showed more live final stages. Gilt-edged hardened while Kafirs met local support and industrials also improved. Oils, however, were irregular, many leaders being influenced by profit-taking. Elsewhere prices were quietly steady with movements small. Wall Street was quiet.—Reuter.

Gestapo Tightens Its Grip On Vichy

Fearing lest the pressure they are now exercising on Vichy should lead to a situation in which Marshal Petain and his collaborators, pushed beyond endurance, might feel that the only solution would be their flight into North Africa, the Germans have increased the number of Gestapo men in Vichy and have placed members of the German secret police on guard at French ports and aerodromes, states the Free French agency.

The perpetual fear of bringing about a breakaway of the French African Empire enjoins caution among the Nazis but none the less they are now doing all they can to wear down the resistance of the few men around Marshal Petain who continue to hold out against dishonourable and traitorous dealings such as were recently advocated by Laval.—Reuter.

TRUANT TURNS UP AGAIN

More successes against Italy have been achieved by the British Navy.

It was officially announced yesterday that the submarine Truant (Lt-Comm. H. A. V. Haggard) on the night of December 13/14 attacked an escorted convoy of heavily laden supply ships off Cape Spartivento.

One of the enemy supply ships was sunk and a second possibly sunk.

The following night Truant torpedoed and sank a large Italian tanker off the Calabrian coast. The tanker was deeply laden and was steering south.—Reuter.

Lt. Commander Haggard is well-known in Hong Kong.

TOWN HAS OWN RAID INSURANCE

A sixpenny registration fee and a subscription of 1s. a month will protect the people of Maldon, Essex, from hardship caused by air raids.

They have formed their civil mutual air-raid damage fund, under the chairmanship of the Mayor, Mr. S. G. Tydeman.

Members whose homes and furniture are damaged during raids will be able to claim instant relief from the pool of subscriptions.

"The object of our scheme is to supplement the Government legislation compensation in respect of air-raid damage," an official of the fund told a reporter.

"Experience has shown, in places such as Norwich, that real hardship can be caused temporarily unless there is some local fund to give immediate relief on the spot."

Those subscribers who own their own houses will pay contributions based on the rateable value of their own property. A committee of twelve has been elected to administer the fund, and its members will make an immediate grant to all members who are in difficulties after a raid.

RUHR HEAVILY RAIDED

Targets in the Ruhr and western Germany, including synthetic oil plants, power stations and railway junctions, were attacked on Thursday night and despite bad weather all the British aircraft returned safely.

The Air Ministry stated that in the Duisburg area two large fires were observed and oil targets near Cologne were set ablaze.

Several fires were caused at Dusseldorf where anti-aircraft positions were bombed.

Heavy bombs were dropped at Essen and four explosions occurred.

Targets at Bonn were also attacked from a low level and one very large fire was observed.

Coastal Command aircraft successfully attacked the Tiergen-Oslo railway which is now extensively used by the enemy for military purposes. Bombs were seen to burst directly on the line at several points.—Reuter.

GREEKS RESPOND

In Albania, the Greeks are responding gallantly to General Papagos's order-of-the-day calling on them to drive the Italians back into the sea.

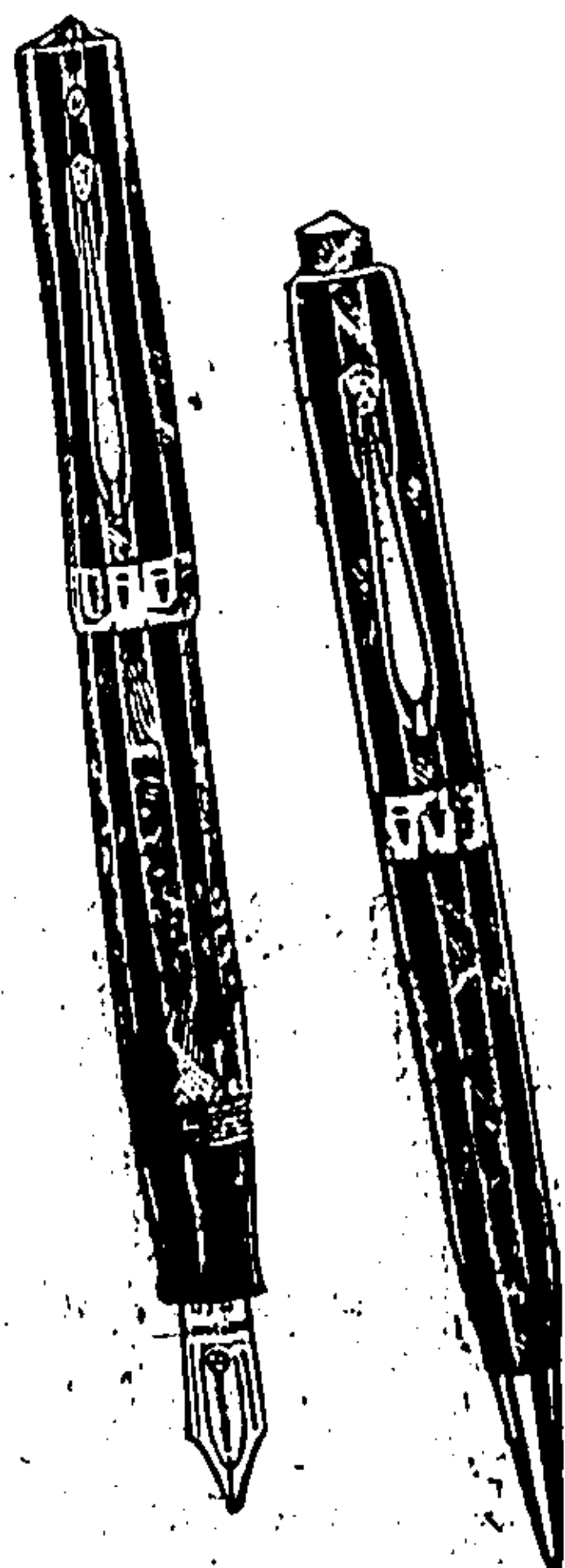
Six hundred prisoners have been taken in hand-to-hand fighting, 10 villages have been occupied in the central zone and two more heights have been taken in the northern sector.

The Greeks are also maintaining their push up the Adriatic coast, the Italians being pursued along the road to Cimarre.

In addition to being attacked by the Greeks, the Fascists are also being shelled by British warships in the Adriatic.—Reuter.



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NAVAL GUNS BATTER AT BARDIA

Dense Pall Of Smoke Hanging Far Out To Sea

Armoured Troops Ready For Action

(By Reuter's Special Correspondent with the Advanced British Forces Somewhere in Libya)

OVER BARDIA I SEE A DENSE PALL OF SMOKE HANGING OUT TO SEA, CORROBORATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE BRITISH NAVY'S BOMBARDMENTS, THE BOOMING BROADSIDES OF WHICH ECHOED THROUGH MY CAMP ALL NIGHT.

Close by stands an armoured brigade, ready to roll into action against Bardia which the enemy is frantically endeavouring to defend. Other mechanised units lurk even further beyond, adding a further ingredient to the Italian discomfiture.

I have just reached here from Sollum through a raging gale over Halfaya Pass, which the Italians made no attempt to blow up as did the British in their withdrawal, and have arrived at the Western Desert's strategic escarpment.

I came on the frontier country with only a thin film of British advanced troops between me and Bardia.

Sollum, when I left, was lying disconsolately smashed up.

Point Blank Range

There the escarpment juts across the littoral to the sea and British troops pushing forward from Bug Bug swarmed across the completely exposed coastal plain without cover under point-blank range of artillery from Italian barracks perched on the cliff top.

Taking Halfaya Pass the British forces scrambled on the tableland and chased towards the frontier the retreating Italians speeding back to Libya abandoning colossal quantities of war material and stores in their flight.

A few miles ahead of me lies all that remains of Bardia—crumbling shells of buildings cracked incessantly by torrents of bombs and shells and now under siege by mechanised units backed up by the weight of infantry.

Air Attacks

Twelve Italian bombers and a score of fighters this afternoon from a height of 500 feet attacked British troops in a position nearby, inflicting neither damage nor casualties with strafing and machine-gunning.

Westward from Bardia and deeper into Libya, Graziani is reported to be holding in readiness about 200,000 soldiers, despite the enormity of his losses in prisoners and casualties resulting from the initial impact of the offensive.

The astonishing velocity of Britain's Middle-East military tornado is realised by the fact that it has taken me precisely as long in a fast Ford utility van to cross the recently Italian-occupied part of Egypt as it did the British and Imperial forces—always a day ahead—battering through enemy opposition the whole way over the very worst patches of boulder-strewn desert I have ever seen and under most difficult weather conditions.—Reuter.

NO PARADES

It is announced that there will be no parades of the H.K.V.D.C. Training Cadre and Training Coy. during the two weeks from 22.12.40 to 4.1.41 inclusive. After the end of this week, the next parade will therefore be as follows: Training Cadre and Veteran Squad—Monday, 8.1.41; Training Coy.—Tuesday, 7.1.41.

LONDON'S BIG GUN

Crashes Shake Buildings

Londoners have now become acquainted with their greatest gun, the one that goes off with a terrific crack. I had heard it roar over my head, had felt it shake a building, but I had not realised to what noisy triumph it could rise until I went to live in its shadow, as it were, in an hotel.

I was seated in the lounge in a vast expanse of deserted plush carpet and empty sofas when it opened the barrage with a resounding crash. The building trembled and swayed for several seconds. It was a surprise the first time, but after that we adapted ourselves to the swaying. It felt like being in a liner in the middle of the Atlantic hit from time to time by angry waves.

A nervous waiter stole across the carpet and asked us not to sit there. "The roof is rather thin," he said. "You sit there at your own risk." He beat a hasty retreat and we were left in a sort of no man's land.

During the first lull in the barrage I went up to my room on the eighth floor to sleep. Half-way through the second raid I was aroused by the noise. It seemed to crash across the building several times, and the swaying at that height made me feel giddy.

The gold of the bursting shells made the sky look like an animated astronomical globe in an old-fashioned atlas. I could not see the enemy, but I could follow his path by the shell-bursts. Three searchlight beams sought him out relentlessly, their silence awe-inspiring by contrast with the big gun.

KENYA SKIRMISH

An Italian attempt to take the initiative in Kenya ended disastrously, it is announced in Cairo. The Italians raided a town on the northern frontier, but were overtaken by a body of East African troops.

'FINESSE' PAID THIS FINE!

When a motorist, Harry, Arthur, of Sussex-gardens, Hyde Park, refused to pay a fine, Mr. L. R. Dunne, the Marylebone Magistrate, ordered that the amount of the fine, 18s., should be deducted from money found on him.

The Magistrate said he did this "to save the man from himself," as otherwise he would have to go to prison.

The fine was imposed a month ago for leaving a car without lights.

Arthur said he had not paid on principle, because the car was left in a private road outside Sussex-gardens, and, since then, an exactly similar summons in respect to the same car had been dismissed.

He had written to the Home Secretary about it, explaining the whole situation.

MORE TONNAGE FOR BRITAIN

United States Government officials are known to be considering whether the 37 Danish and over 100 other foreign ships tied up in American ports can be turned over to Britain.

In addition, an intensive study of the American shipping situation is reported to be progressing in an effort to find more tonnage to lease to Britain.—Reuter.

COURTS DEFY RAIDS

EVACUATION PLAN DROPPED

Plans made at the beginning of the war to evacuate the Law Courts if air raids on London became intense have been dropped. The work is carried on during alerts in reinforced jury rooms below the courts, where judges and barristers sit at plain tables near witnesses and litigants.

If the evacuation plans had been put into operation grave dislocation of the machinery of the courts would have been caused.

Most barristers are relieved at the decision to stay in London. They have their chambers in easy reach of the Law Courts, and a move would cause them great inconvenience.

Banks To Keep Open

The Committee of London Clearing Bankers, decided to keep banks open for the transaction of urgent business during air-raid warnings. If it becomes necessary for the staff to take cover during a period of imminent local danger, banking services will still be provided and the doors of the banking premises will not be locked, though they may be closed.

In explaining these arrangements yesterday Mr. Charles Lidbury, chief general manager of the Westminster Bank, emphasised that to safeguard vital current records, it will remain necessary for a large proportion of the staffs to take these records to a place of safety when the alert is sounded.

At many small branches, however, there are no underground strong rooms, and on occasions the branches will be temporarily closed during raids.

MERCILESS AIR ATTACKS ON ITALIANS

BARDIA IS BEING mercilessly bombed from the air and bombarded from the sea while a ring of British tanks and massed troops is drawn around the town's inland sides.

At the same time distant Italian bases are being continuously hammered.

Bardia and Derna, which is 150 miles west of Bardia, on the Libyan coast, were both heavily bombed on Wednesday night, says a British air communique issued in Cairo yesterday.

Great damage was done at Derna, military buildings being set on fire, violent explosions occurring and direct hits being registered on barracks, police headquarters, motor transport parks and garages.

Practically the whole camp was ablaze when the last British aircraft left the scene.

Similar raids were made on enemy troop concentrations and motor transport to the north-west of Bardia.

An R.A.F. fighter squadron on offensive patrol shot down five Italian planes while two other Italian aircraft broke formation in difficulties but were not actually seen to crash.

In Albania

The R.A.F. communique adds that in southern Albania, Valona and Krisonero were raided successfully.

Italian fighters and anti-aircraft were active.

One Italian plane attempted to raid Aden on Wednesday night but did no damage.

An attempted raid on Malta the same day was equally unsuccessful, the British shooting down one Italian bomber.

From all these operations all British planes returned safely.—Reuter.

The Italians retired, leaving two dead, 70 camels and some equipment.

We sustained no losses. In the Sudan, patrol activity continues around Gallabat and Kassala.—Reuter.



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TO-MORROW: "THE REAL GLORY"

BIRD'S-EYE PICTURE OF BRITISH ASSAULT ON BARDIA

(From Reuter's Special Correspondent)

PILOTS WHO HAVE been flying over
Libya ever since the beginning of the cam-
paign have given me vivid "bird's eye" pic-
tures of the British assault on Bardia.

They have seen Italian soldiers plodding
down the coast road towards Tobruk with Ita-
lian cars and lorries rushing past them.

BILLETING IN WEST END

In providing accommo-
dation for people who
have been made homeless
by bombing, local au-
thorities in London have
not been taken unawares.
They are now reaping the
benefit of preparations
made some time ago for a
different emergency.

In the City of Westminster and
elsewhere leading estate agents
were asked to assist town hall
staffs by using their knowledge of
specified zones in getting out re-
gisters of furnished houses and
flats suitable for billeting refugees
from coastal areas in case of in-
vasion.

These registers have been of the
utmost value in the present emer-
gency when speed of action has
counted for so much. Considerable
billeting has been effected in the
West End, principally in houses
where only housekeepers or care-
takers have been in residence.

The existing urgent need to find
shelter for the homeless in hun-
dreds from the east and south-east
of London has made it necessary,
however, to go far beyond the or-
iginal scheme.

Much more accommodation is
wanted and wanted quickly, and
empty houses are being taken
over by billeting officers. In West-
minster such properties have been
secured during the last few days
as 40a, Hill Street, Berkeley
Square, 90-94, Belgrave Road, and
27, 30, 31, 32, 34 and 59, Chester
Square, No. 32, Chester Square,
was formerly the residence of
Lord Dunglass, M.P.

The present policy of the West-
minster authorities is to take over
houses of moderate size, with a
number of small rooms, rather
than the mansions with their im-
posing decorations and large
apartments. It is recognised that
families want to live together, and
in a number of cases it has been
possible to give a family an en-
tire floor in a suitable house. Such
houses as are taken over are be-
ing furnished simply out of gifts
and stores held by the local au-
thority. Gifts of furniture, beds
and bedding, in particular, are
badly wanted.

DIED AFTER EATING PORK

Because of the suspicion that
death might have been due to
ptomaine poisoning, the funeral
of Ernest William Hinson (72), a
printer's manager, of Bridgeway,
Whitton, Middlesex, was post-
poned.

This was stated at the inquest
at Twickenham when Dr. K.
Badger said that he suspected
some form of food poisoning be-
cause the illness seemed to fol-
low the eating of roast pork.
The coroner recorded a verdict
of "Death from natural causes."

IRONCLAD BRITISH TANK

No known anti-tank
gun can penetrate the
thick hide of a new 25-
ton tank now being used
in the British Army.

Britain is pushing ahead fast
with the output of tanks and
men to man them in a terrific
bid to make up leeway in the
type of warfare she originated
and Germany developed.

"I have seen and heard
plenty of evidence of this dur-
ing an intensive study of the
Royal Armoured Corps' or-
ganisation and growth," writes
Reuter's special correspondent
with the British Army in
training.

"Now at least two types of
formation in the Royal Armoured
Corps—on one armoured divi-
sion, possessing the most for-
midable hitting power in the
British Army, self-contained and
working at high speed, and an
even more weighty tank brigade
working at a slower pace with
the infantry—are expanding very
rapidly.

"Arm where equipment is
concerned is standardisation, with
more armament and heavier ar-
mour than even that possessed
by the heavy infantry tanks lost
to Germany in France."—Reuter.

ASKED TO PAY BAKERS OVERTIME IN RAIDS

Payment of workers who volun-
tarily carry on during air raid
periods at the rate of time and a
half (for the warning period) is
recommended to employers by the
Baking Trade Board.

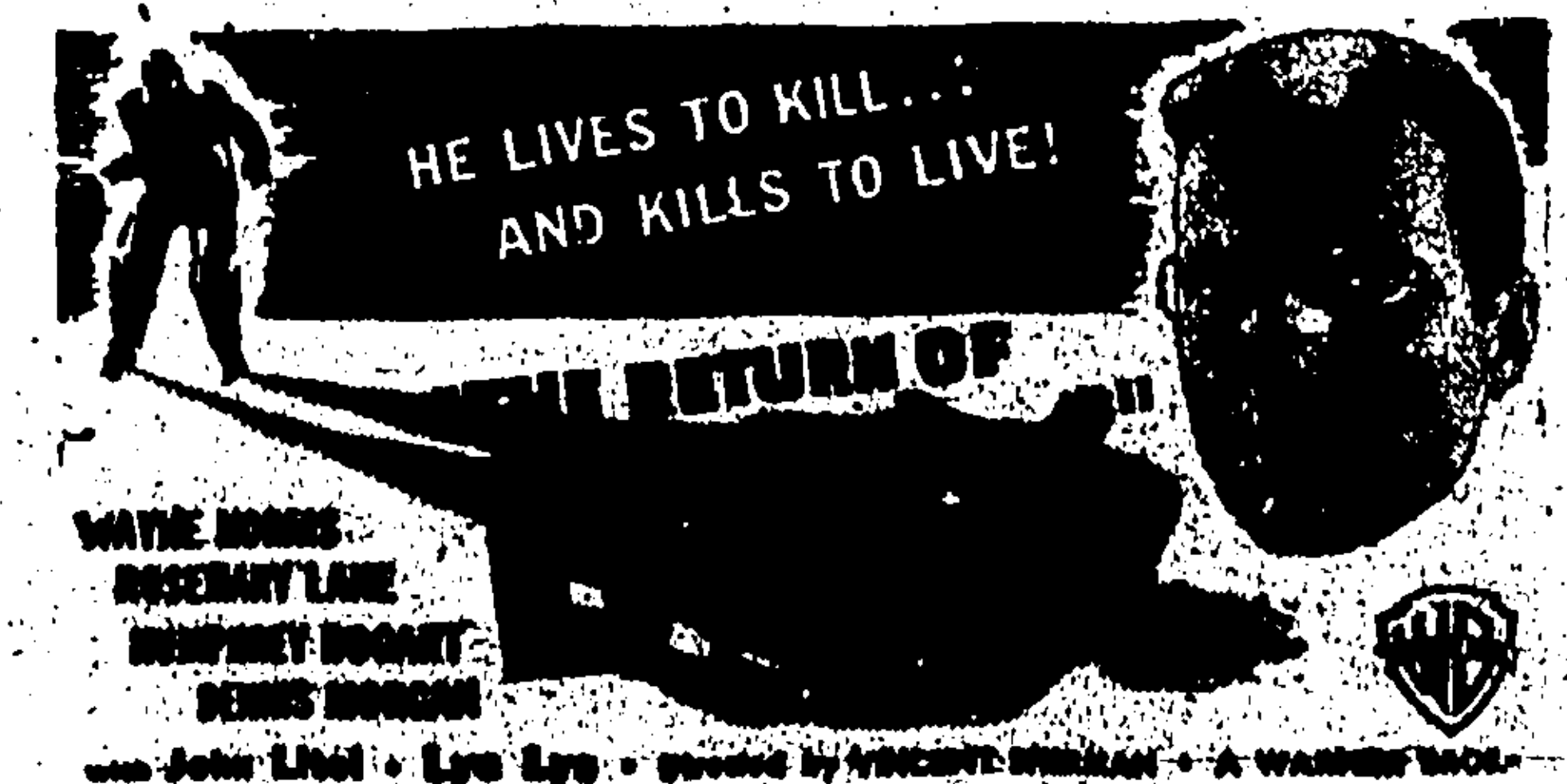
A further recommendation sug-
gests that if, because of time spent
taking shelter during a warning
period, a worker is unable to work
forty-eight hours, he should be
paid for forty-eight hours. There
is a provision that, if the oppor-
tunity is afforded, he may be re-
quired to work forty-eight hours.

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MITT AND JEFF

By BUD FISHER



BRITISH CRUISER LAUNCHED

Naval launchings in war-time are generally private occasions at which only those who have ordered or made the ship are present to see her waterborne. But the public, through the newspapers, can sometimes join in such a ceremony and wish Godspeed to the ship and all who sail in her.

Recently a cruiser took the water in a British yard. Even the lads there did not know the name Mrs. Dorling (wife of Rear-Admiral J. W. S. Dorling) gave her, but one day her name may be honoured as are the names of the Ajax and the Achilles. As the vessel stood on the slips, just a hulk with superstructure and funnels added, she was a mystery ship to us. She will be fast, but no details were made available, and at that stage one could not even guess at her future armament.

After all that she had suffered

under the priorities scheme she was ready now at the halfway point in her building. Months ago the keel was laid in peace-time—months during which only one involuntary stoppage of work occurred—for four hours during an air raid. On this day there were two "Alerts" in the hour before the launching, but the second "All-clear" sounded with 10 minutes to go. It would not have mattered had it come later, for only immediate danger will stop activity in this yard.

As one looked at the sister ship and the submarine which were the skeleton companions of this vessel on the stocks, and from them along the lines of other ships building, one realised something of what we owe to the men and boys of the shipyards. They must have a special pride in their handiwork in these days. The cheers as the cruiser slid on her way, curtsied, and rode on the tide, amid the spurned timbers of her cradle, were evidence of that. Such salutes are almost grudged in "better" times, for the occasion may mark the end of a term of employment for some of the hands; but to-day there is war work waiting.

STOPPING WORK AIDS HUN GAME

Any needless stopping of work is an act of surrender to Hitler. It weakens both our military effort and our power of resistance.

This point was made in a broadcast by Miss Ellen Wilkinson, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Pensions, who gave a pledge that the Government would shoulder complete liability for war injuries to workers.

Shopkeepers and factory owners were under no liability if they allowed customers to remain or men to work during an air raid.

Under the Personal Injuries Act (1939), the relief for the owner or occupier of premises from liabilities for war injuries was complete, she said.

To win the Battle of Britain two things must be done. We must keep production going and life as normal as we could.

"There are many people who are willing to be brave when it is only themselves who will suffer. But they have responsibilities to consider," said Miss Wilkinson.

Independent Scheme

There was the owners of the large stores and cafes who said: "If I keep open and am willing to serve customers during a raid, am I liable if anyone is hurt?"

Many factory owners had written: "If I permit my men to work when shelters are provided, am I liable for compensation?"

Most important of all, there was the worker who said: "I will work through, but what about my wife and family? If I do not go to the shelter, will they say that whatever happens to me is my own fault?"

"The scheme for war injuries has nothing to do with the Workmen's Compensation Act. It is a scheme by itself with simple regulations administered by the Minister of Pensions.

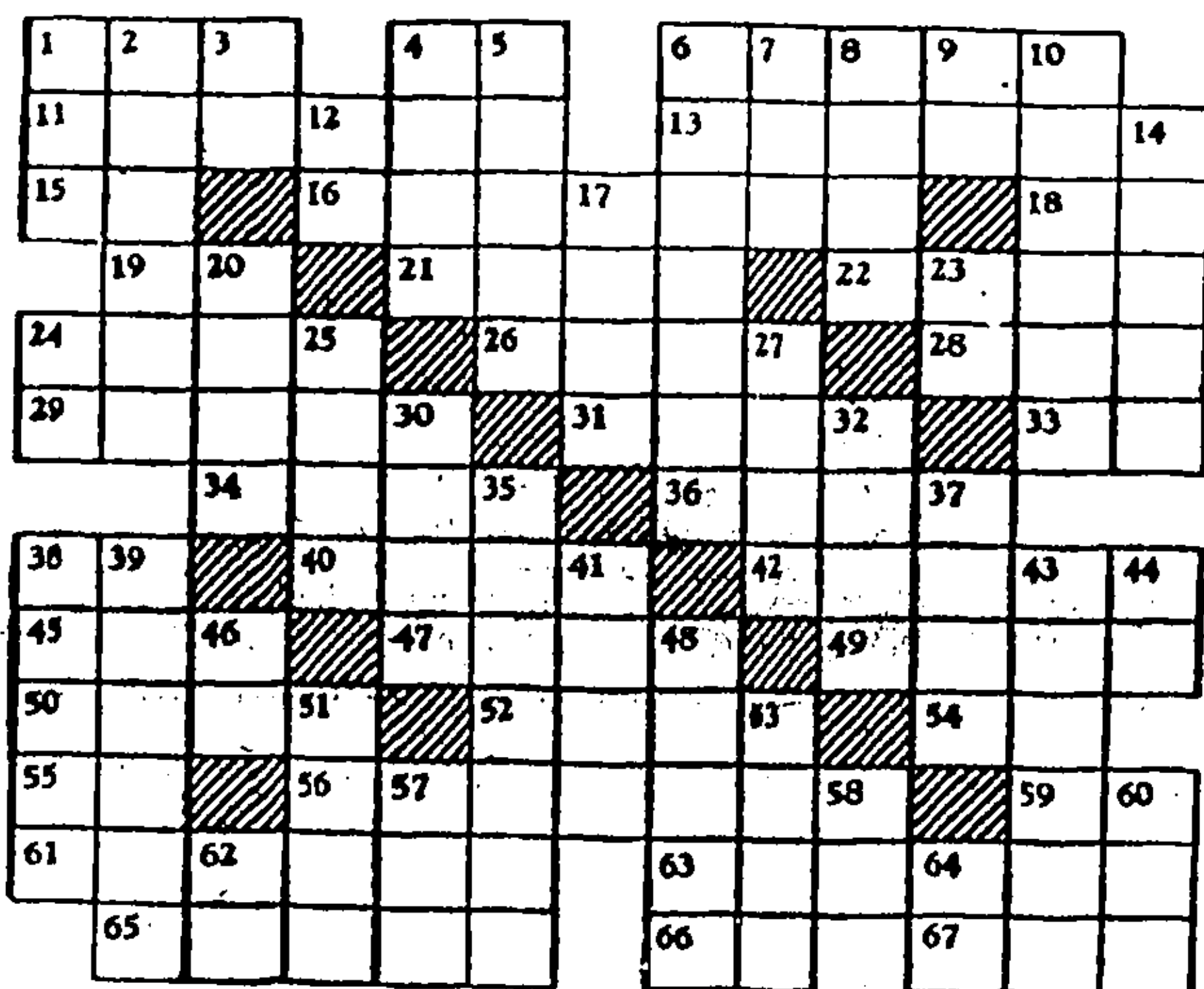
"Don't Be Foolhardy"

"Remember also, the Minister of Pensions is the Minister of a Government which appeals to the workers to stay at work as long as they reasonably can after the sirens have sounded, and to get back to work even before the all-clear, once the imminent danger has passed.

"In asking this, the Government does not want workers to run risks that are foolhardy. The leaflet called 'Working After the Siren' will be issued this week, and explains the precautions that will be taken to give warning of imminent danger. We want to protect the life and health of every worker.

"You get on with the job, and you can rely on the Ministry of Pensions to look after the casualties and their dependants—with all the sympathy and consideration due to those who have stood by their duty on the eve of their country's triumph."

OUR 10-MINUTE CROSS-WORD



HORIZONTAL

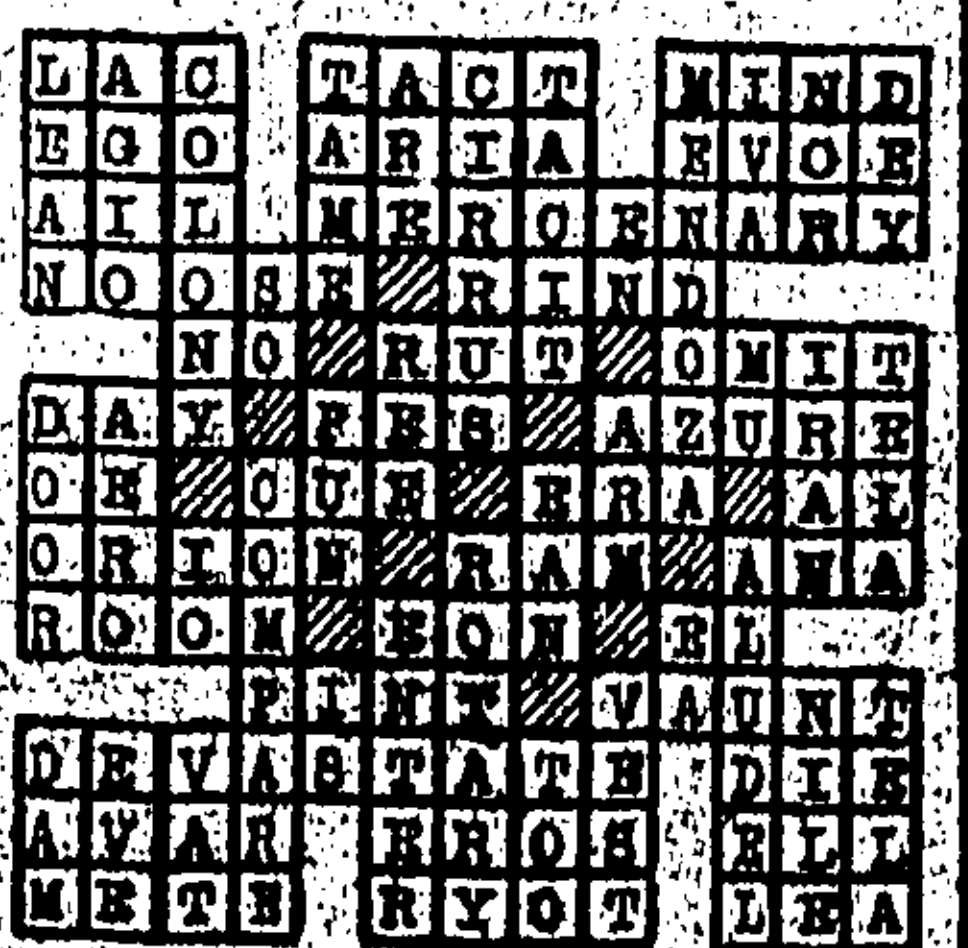
- 1 Philippine savage
- 4 Babylonian deity
- 6 Grave
- 11 Mohammedan sovereign
- 13 English poet
- 15 Symbol for silver
- 16 Obvious
- 18 Symbol for calcium
- 19 To leave
- 21 Lamb's pen-name
- 22 Latin poet
- 24 To interpret
- 26 Uncanny
- 28 High priest
- 29 Poisonous snake
- 31 To leak
- 33 Teutonic deity
- 34 Narrow opening
- 36 Valley
- 38 Japanese money
- 40 English cathedral city
- 42 Unusual
- 45 Concoction
- 47 South African Dutch
- 49 Infection

- 50 Hindu mythological hero
- 52 Fresh-water porpoise
- 54 French conjunction
- 55 By
- 56 Ornamental design
- 59 Concerning
- 61 Bull-fighter
- 63 Elves
- 65 Part of a stair
- 66 Prefix dawn
- 67 Roman bronze

- VERTICAL
- 1 Third king of Judah
- 2 Hauled
- 3 Mulberry
- 4 Roof edge
- 5 Feeble-minded
- 6 Daubed
- 7 Mineral
- 8 Singing voice
- 9 Pronoun
- 10 Tractable
- 12 Symbol for tellurium

- 14 Lowest point
- 17 Fades away
- 20 Chances
- 23 Brother of Odin
- 24 Sun god
- 25 Difficult to grasp
- 27 To bring forth
- 30 Beginning
- 32 Conspiracy
- 35 One who betrays a trust
- 37 Cry of the Bacchanals
- 38 French Revolutionary leader
- 39 Public speaker
- 41 German philosopher
- 43 Means of access
- 44 French article
- 45 Part of "to be"
- 46 A vessel
- 51 Anthropoids
- 53 Italian river
- 57 Part of "to be"
- 58 Negative
- 60 Warm
- 62 Japanese measure
- 64 Colloquial mother

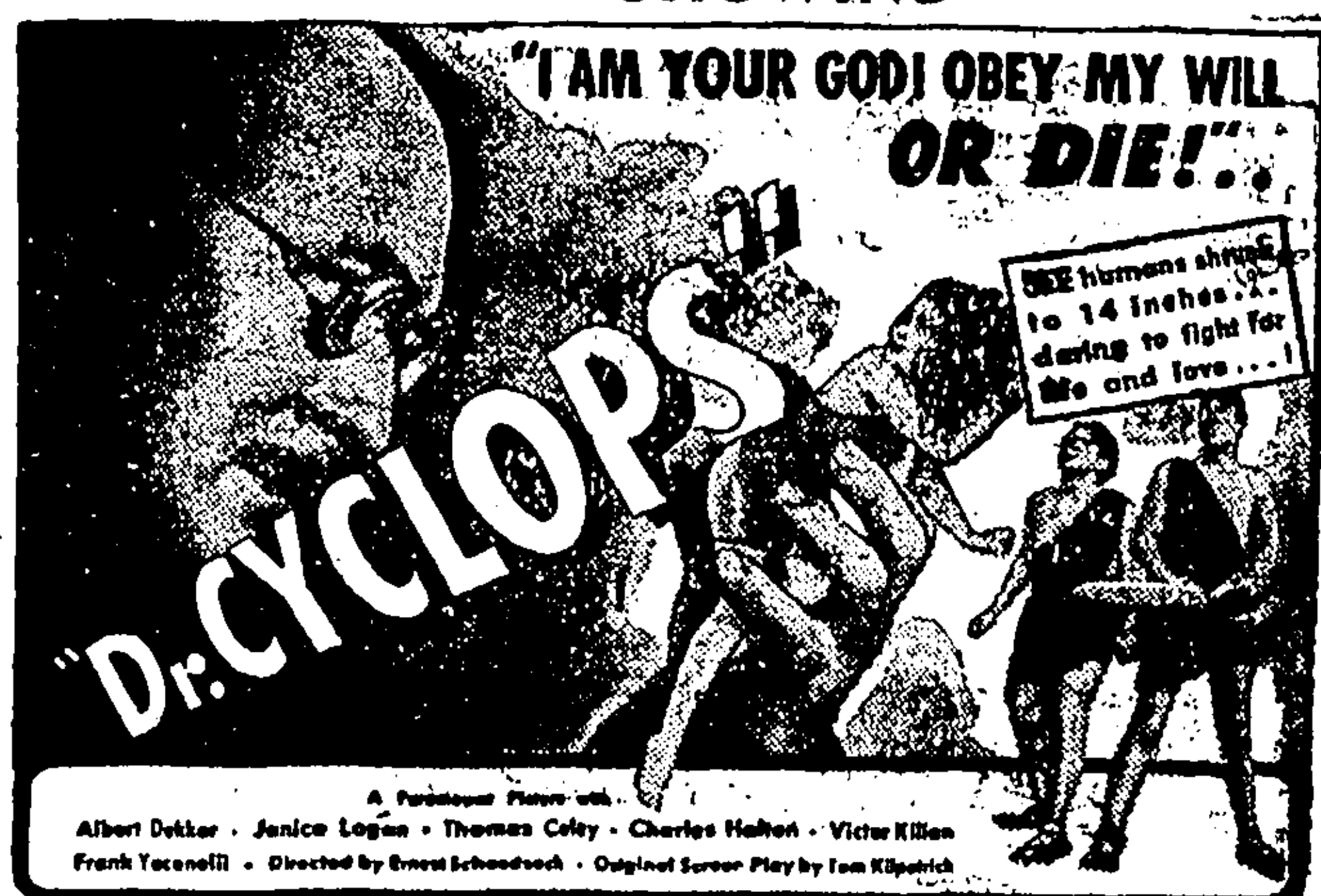
YESTERDAY'S SOLUTION



QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

AT 2.30-5.15-7.20-9.30 TEL. 31453 • AT 2.30-5.20-7.20-9.30 TEL. 56856

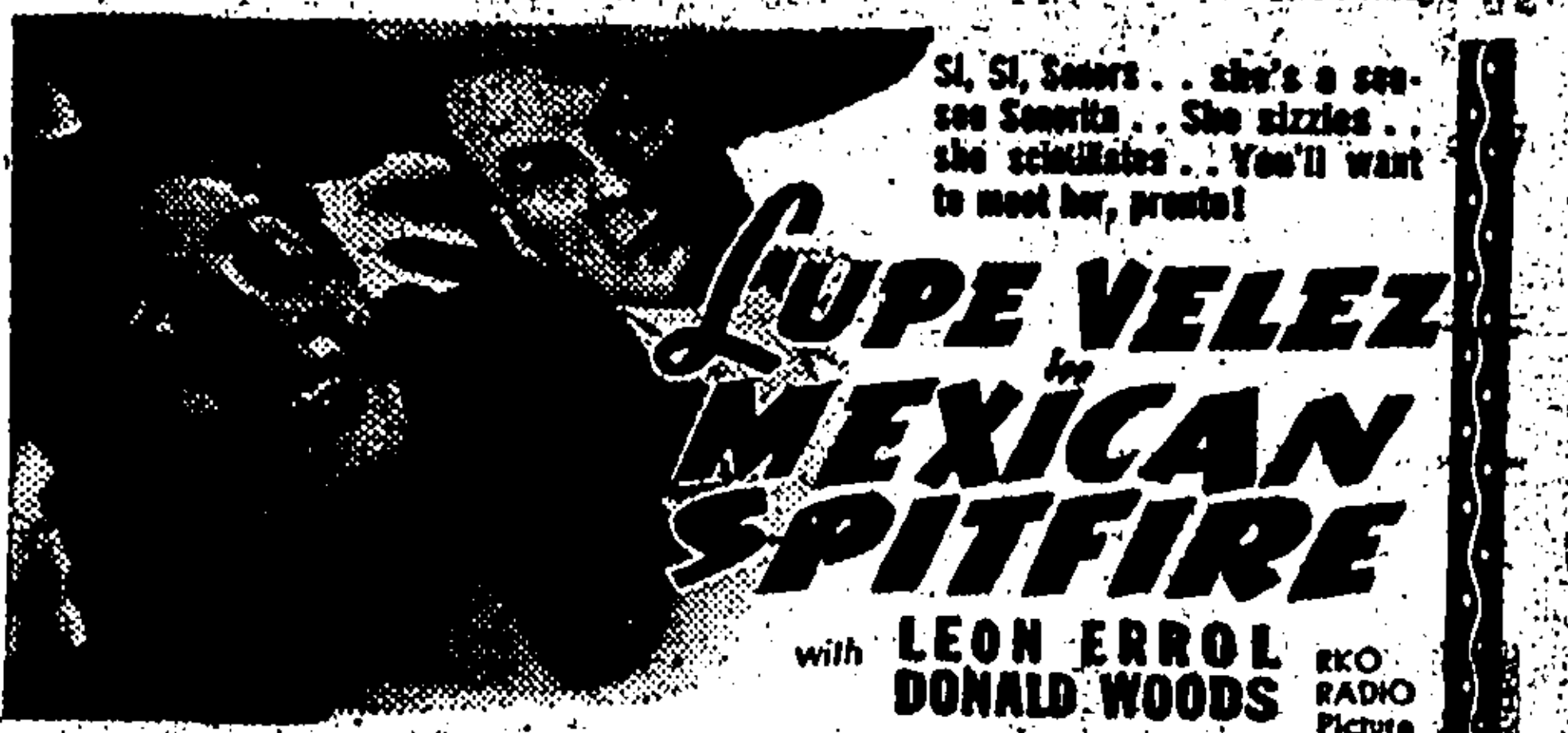
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CATHAY
DAILY AT 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 P.M.
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* FINAL SHOWINGS TO-DAY *

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A sizzling Senorita to set your heart aflame. Even marriage fails to clip her claws. Approach cautiously!



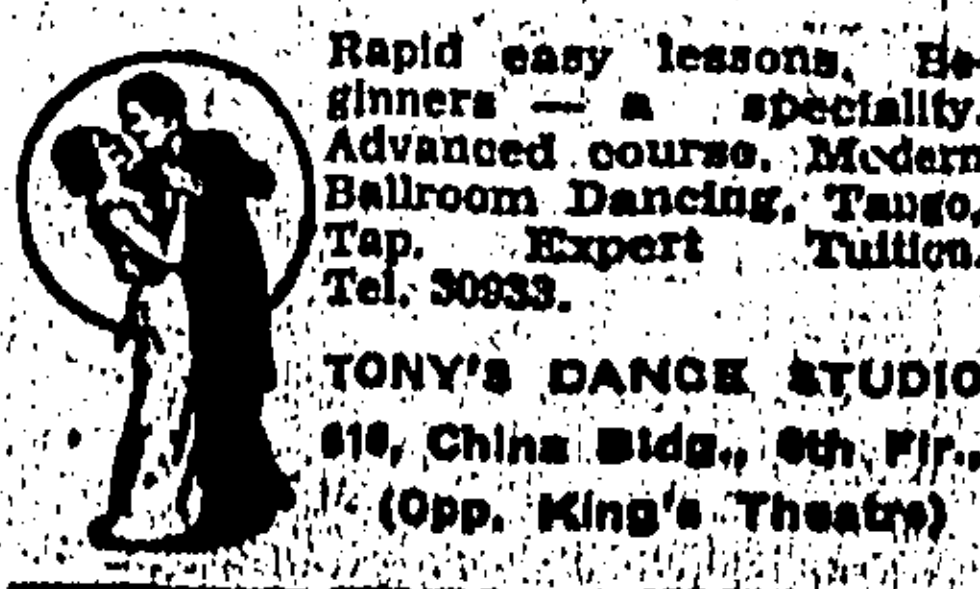
ADDED! THE MARCH OF TIME presents

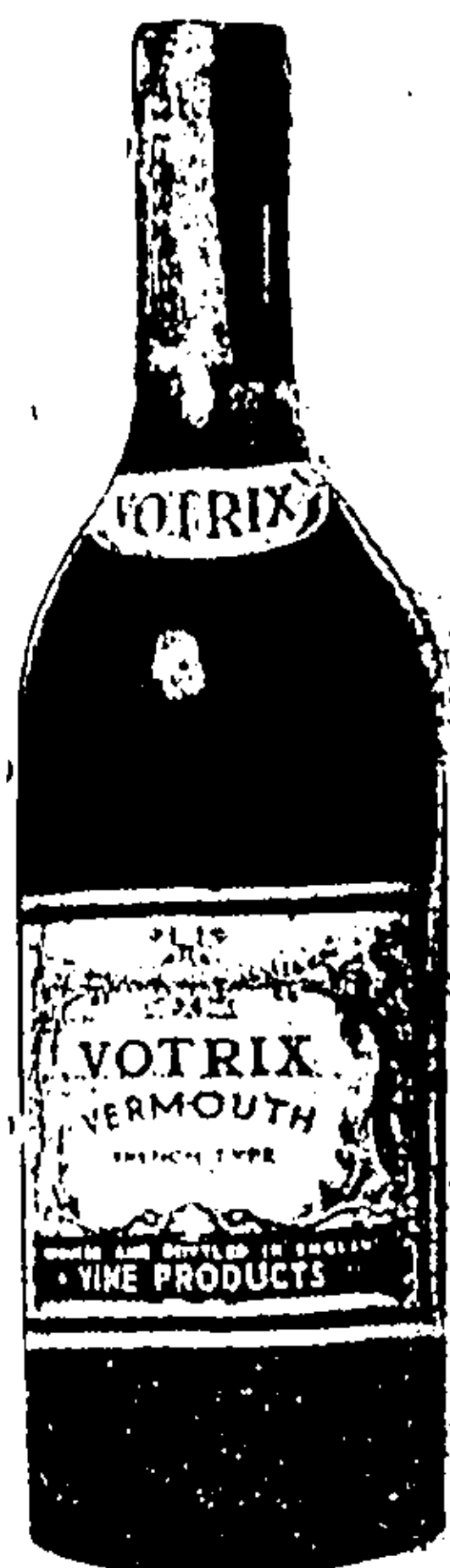
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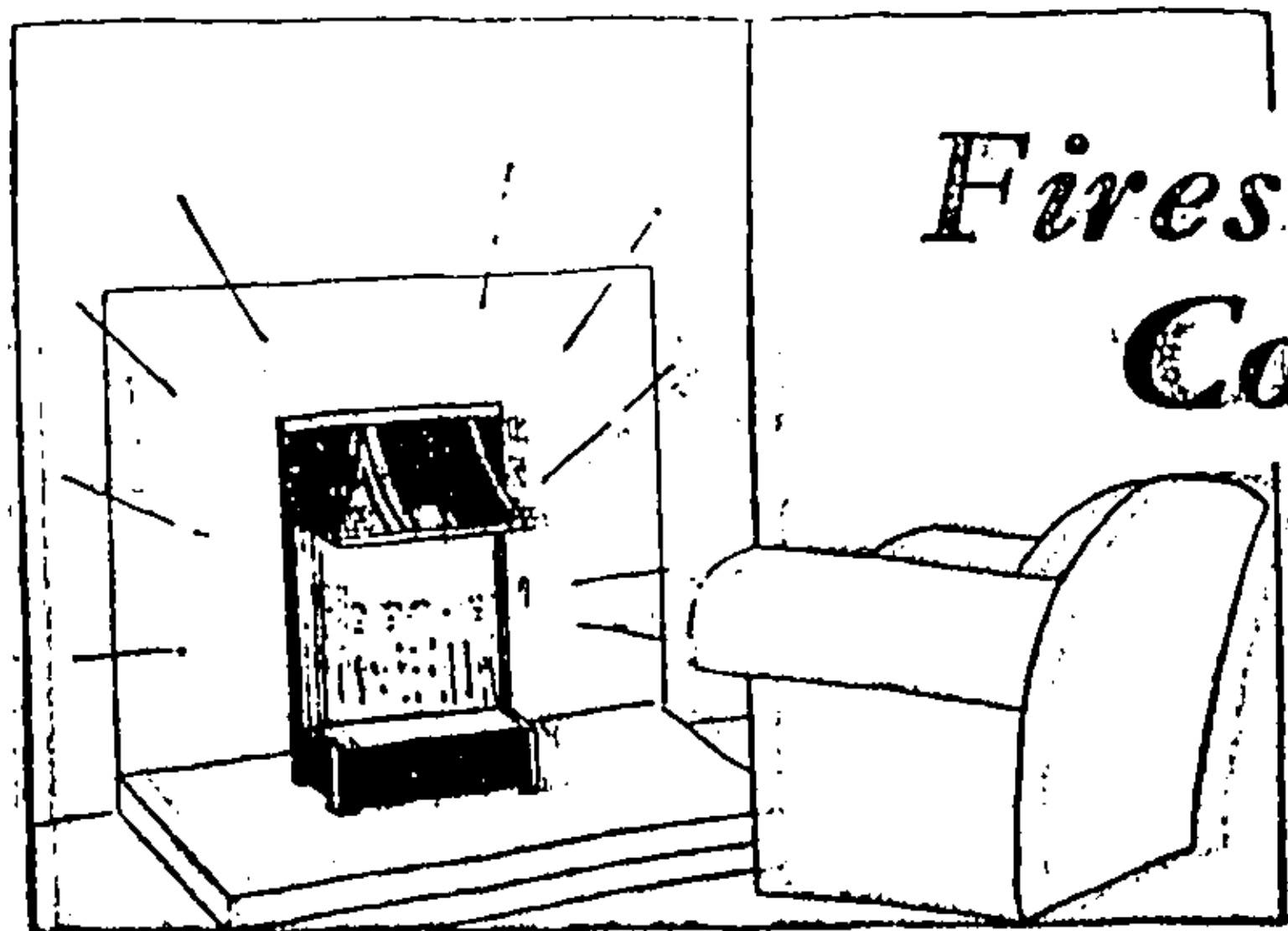
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NAZI 'PLANES DIVE TO GUN WOMEN

MORE CIVILIANS were deliberately machine-gunned in the streets as the Germans, finding mass attacks too expensive, launched hit-and-run raids on England by single machines or small groups. As women were shopping in the main street of a south-east coast town a raider dived out of the clouds and fired four bursts at them. Bullets pattered on roofs and slashed through bushes. But there were no casualties.

Machine-gunning of a "residential area" was put on record in a communique by the Air Ministry and Ministry of Home Security. In one of two raids on a south-east town an aerial torpedo is believed to have been used. It smashed eight of a row of working-class cottages to pieces.

It was officially stated that thirteen enemy planes were destroyed. Two R.A.F. fighters were lost, but one pilot is safe. Two single raiders attacked the south-east town where the aerial torpedo was believed to have been used.

Diving suddenly out of the clouds, the first dropped two heavy screamer bombs, one of which blotted out an allotment garden the other making a huge crater in a field.

Later came the second raider. What is thought to have been an aerial torpedo hit a street of working-class houses. After the smoke had cleared all that could be seen of what had once been several cottages was a huge crater full of debris. Many other houses were damaged.

It is feared that a number of people lost their lives.

Blew Her Over Wall

Three bodies had been recovered from the wreckage and several people taken to hospital.

The blast of the bomb blew one woman who was in her garden clean over the wall, but she escaped with bruises and shock.

One man fifty yards away crouched against a wall as pieces of debris flew round him. When he got up he saw his shape outlined on the wall with brick dust.

One of the victims was an eighty-year-old woman who had just been put to bed in her upstairs bedroom by her son. As he reached the foot of the stairs the house was blown to pieces. He crawled through the debris unhurt except for bruises.

A young girl was playing a piano in a house opposite when the blast blew in all the windows. But she escaped injury.

Parachuted Into Street

People leaving their shelters after an alarm at another south-eastern town looked up to see five German airmen descending by parachute from their blazing plane.

One of the airmen came down in the middle of a street and was captured by a dustman who was busy carting victory salvage. Another of the Germans was a youth of eighteen. Said a special constable: "The poor kid was scared stiff. When I reached him a Home Guard was trying to cheer him up."

When a raider dropped bombs on shops in a south-west town a residential area A.R.P. men who rushed to the spot were horrified to see it strewn with the bodies of men, women and children. Then they realised that the bodies were tailor dummies.

School's Escape

Mr. Frederick William Landray, aged thirty-one, who was in his garden, was killed in the raid. He leaves a wife and two children. A few people were slightly injured.

One bomb blew a school shelter to pieces—but all the children had gone home some hours before. Earlier, a single raider bombed and machine-gunned a south-east town. In spite of intense fire from

A.A. and machine-guns, the plane made two circuits, dropped ten high explosive bombs and two showers of incendiary bombs. Its machine-gun bullets pattered on roofs and walls, but the streets were practically clear.

Direct Hits

Bombs scored direct hits on two surface shelters, causing deaths in each.

The Rev. James A. M. Gavigan, of Hollywood-Place, Bristol, and his step-son Kenneth Clay, were killed when two raiders dropped seven bombs near a station in the south-west the previous night. Mr. Clay's wife was seriously injured.

Three members of one family were among others killed. They were, Mrs. Heath, aged sixty, her daughter, Mrs. Winifred Adams, thirty, and grand-daughter Dilys, aged six.

MAYFAIR'S CABBAGE PATCH

Six West End garden squares are to be converted into war-time allotments, and by this means, Kensington alone hopes to have 1,000 plots producing 400 tons of food.

Owners of unoccupied West End houses have given their gardens to allotmenters. Among cultivators are a retired brigadier-general, a University professor, a policeman and a postman.

A famous figure in the world of finance has vegetables growing where once was one of the best lawns in London.

INVASION TEST ON COAST

Phantom Nazi Armies

(By A Special Correspondent.)

Phantom German armies have been trying to "invade" Britain. Hidden in a small wood on a rolling expanse of moorland near the coast I found a group of soldiers with a field wireless station in operation.

A brisk grey-haired officer standing beside it said to me: "I am in command of this German brigade which landed at dawn at X. We are trying to get into touch with some parachute troops, but I understand they are very exhausted, and have been completely surrounded some miles away."

As he spoke everybody took cover for British aeroplanes roaring low over the moorland began a dive-bombing attack on the road.

All these "German" invaders were detachments of our British defence troops, playing the part of the enemy to give the fullest possible practice in repelling an attack.

Guard Maintained

"During to-day's attack our forces are guarding the coast in the usual way," a senior officer explained to me. "These test manoeuvres are being carried out by men in reserve. If the Germans attacked now the phantom German army would immediately become British and help in repelling invaders."

"These tests on the actual ground where fighting might take place are very useful indeed. Our defence forces do not know the plans of the 'German commanders,' and have to scout and reconnoitre in the usual way."

Just then I saw a British motor-cyclist captured by "German" soldiers in ambush beside the road down which he was scouting. As they leapt out with rifles at the alert and took him to headquarters he looked rather embarrassed, so realistic was his capture. Driving ahead through "No Man's Land," I found the British troops in full possession of the German positions, and about to execute a flanking attack.



Katharine Hepburn, who plays the role of Tracy Lord in Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's film version of the Philip Barry stage success, "The Philadelphia Story," which also stars Cary Grant and James Stewart, posed for this portrait before leaving the coast.

CHINA MAIL

MARATHON AND THERMOPYLAE

We cannot know, yet, what the modern Herodotus will write about the Italo-Greek war. Military experts appear to agree that the magnificent ability the Greeks have shown not only to resist, but take a smashing offensive — is an all-around surprise. And the Greek soldiers are being likened to the heroes of Marathon and Thermopylae.

The comparison is not only interesting but salutary. Marathon was a Greek victory over the invading Persians, Thermopylae was a defeat for the Greeks at the hands of the Persians. Both became proud landmarks in Greek history because of the heroism of the Greek forces that took part.

This was no less marked at Thermopylae than at Marathon. But at Thermopylae there was the ancient counterpart of a "fifth column." A traitor showed the Persians a mountain path by which they got behind the Greeks holding the mountain pass "a little above and a little below Thermopylae." And there were among the allies that made up the Greek front some groups that were partisans of Persia.

At Marathon the Greeks mustered some 11,000 men to bolt the second expedition launched against them by Darius in the summer of 490 B.C. The first expedition had met disaster in a storm off Mt. Athos, in which at least 20,000 Persian soldiers had perished. Now, with a force much greater the Persians came again and landed on the plain of Marathon. The Greeks descended on the invaders, who in their overwhelming numbers regarded the Greeks as "madmen." When the fight was over, say the estimates of Herodotus, the Greeks had lost 192 men, the routed Persians, 6,400.

At Thermopylae neither a more complete mobilisation of Greek allies nor a strategically strong position saved the Greeks from defeat. If Mussolini was thinking of history when he launched his attack on Greece, it must have been Thermopylae and not Marathon that held his attention. For all accounts of the early fighting agree on the slightness of Italian forces first sent against the Greeks, as if Greece had been expected to crumble within.

Apparently Il Duce is still trying by a desperate

Chatillon sur Indre, the guide-book says, is a curious little town of 3416 inhabitants with two hotels, an eleventh century church and a thirteenth century dungeon.

It was the first town we struck in unoccupied France. But there was nothing curious about it. Fresh as I was from seeing the German troops in Brittany and Touraine, Chatillon was for me a depressing and tragic spectacle.

An endless column of broken French soldiers without leaders, without officers, shuffled dismally along the roads apparently to nowhere. All were in rags. Some wore rough bandages on their arms and around their heads. Some walked on sticks. Every now and then a group would fall out by the wayside to rest glumly in the ditch. No one took any interest in anything.

And in and around them were a horde of civilian refugees who filled the streets of the town, queued in front of the shops, besieged the town hall in a vast disorderly mass, and camped anywhere they could find a little space.

The soldiers were mostly men whom the Germans had demobilised and sent over from Loches across the border. Some of them were trying to get home, but most of them were just adrift without any idea of where they were going or what they were going to do next.

I found others like them, hundreds of thousands of them, lounging about all the towns I passed through. They were making no attempt to get work. I could not blame them. There was no work for them to get. The factories are unable to get the necessary raw materials. THE GERMANS HAVE REMOVED EVERYTHING AVAILABLE TO GERMANY AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

The Government pay these men 10 francs a day (1s. 3d. in English money). It is terribly little when you think that out of that they must pay for their food and lodging. I prophesy that before the winter is out the world will hear more of them.

The shops of Chatillon were as good as empty. The Germans had done a thorough job while they were there. I tried to buy myself a razor and a small case to put my things in. Impossible.

resistance to contact the man-of-Thermopylae, but so far nobody has shown the Italian forces a mountain path to easy victory.



DEFENCE OF LONDON

Germans Strip France Bare

And the amazing thing is that not until I got to Toulouse was I able to find a razor, and then only one which cost 200 francs—twenty-five shillings. As for my case, I had to be satisfied with a cardboard box which had once contained a doll.

There were only two restaurants open in the town. And before you went to either you had to queue at the baker's shop for

By Lieut. Litynski

bread. Then you had to stand in a long queue for the restaurant which served a watery soup, a tiny piece of stewed meat, and some fruit.

They gave us plenty of fruit. It was the only thing in unoccupied France of which there was no lack.

That night I found a shakedown for myself and my comrades in a camp of Alsatian refugees.

They were terrifically anti-German and patriotic, these Alsations. They said they would never go back to Strasbourg while it remained in the hands of the Germans. They would prefer to lose everything.

I told one of the local inhabitants of Chatillon about these Alsations and their fine spirit.

"Well," he said, "when the Germans entered the town those Alsations made us all sick. They lined the streets and shouted 'Heil Hitler!'"

That surprised me a lot. Because these Alsations I was with certainly helped us all they could. They dried our clothes for us. One of the women mended my socks. They cooked for us during the three days we spent with them. There was never the slightest suggestion from them of compromise with the Germans.

The chief of the camp had a wireless set in his bungalow. And in the evenings the entire camp—men, women and children—would gather round and listen to the B.B.C. news broadcasts. Not the ones in French, but the German broadcasts.

I thought the Alsations were splendid folk. But maybe it was the same with them as with the rest of France. For I always found that the poorest people and the landed aristocracy were full of spirit.

One of the toughest problems France has to face is the breakdown of her transport system.

We had to face it right away. There were no trains from Chatillon. The bridge across the Indre,

like many other bridges in France, had been blown up. It was no use trying to get a car. There were hundreds of motorcars and lorries lying by the roadside abandoned by their owners. There was no petrol to be had.

The petrol situation never improved. The Germans had taken it, like everything else.

In Perpignan, just before I crossed into Spain, people were paying 5000 francs (£31.5s.) for a mule and selling brand new cars of the best model for 2000 francs and less if they could find a buyer. To convert a car for the use of woodgases cost 10,000 francs.

So, like everyone else, we set out to walk, marching along in the stream of soldiers and refugees, through ruins of villages and across bombed crossroads.

At Chateauroux we were fortunate enough to find a train. It was already so crowded that people were standing on the buffers. But somehow we pushed inside, and it took us as far as another broken bridge.

There we had to get out again and walk once more until we came to a little wayside halt where a goods train stood with some empty cattle trucks.

Six hours we waited in one of the trucks until the train finally clanked off in the direction of Limoges.

The whole of France seemed to be in that 6 horses or 40 men truck. I counted 58 people and their luggage, most of them soldiers, but old men and women, and a few young ones, and children as well.

They were gloomy and passive. Only a girl who looked like a Paris factory worker showed a little energy. She abused the soldiers.

"Look at you," she said, "call yourselves soldiers, and you haven't even got your rifles! Aren't you ashamed to go home like this? I know why you were beaten. Because you wouldn't fight."

"Neither you, nor your generals, nor your officers. If the women had fought instead of you things would have been different!"

She cursed the Petain Government, she cursed Leon Blum. She cursed the generals. With her were two old people, a man and a woman. They looked down at the ground as though they were frightened by their daughter's vehemence. But the soldiers did not argue with her. They just let her speak.

And when she was silent they

sat there telling each other stories of how they had no artillery or air force to help them. How they had been completely bewildered by what was happening around them.

"It was not our fault," they said.

As the train bumped its way into Limoges at last we met another train coming out in the other direction. It was going north, loaded with guns and tanks and other war material and munitions which France was handing over to Germany.

Limoges was jammed full of people, like the rest of occupied France. Crowds were fighting to get into the shops. They were buying up everything they could get in order to convert into goods their francs now pegged to the valueless mark.

I found lodging in the Dragon barracks, where a dormitory had been specially reserved for officers passing through the town. Limoges was the first town where there was a semblance of military organisation.

Some of the officers in the dormitory were in civilian clothes, some in uniform.

As we sat around or lay on our beds before getting undressed a medical service captain began to speak about the English.

The British wanted to fight to the last Frenchman, he said. The British soldiers ran away. They had not the first idea of fighting and were not trained soldiers.

This was too much for a young French Tank Corps lieutenant whose bed was next to mine. He sat up and angrily ordered the captain to be silent.

"Where did you fight?" he demanded. "In Limoges perhaps, eh? I'll tell you about the English, my friend. I was through the whole of the Flanders campaign. And everywhere I saw the British they were fighting with a superb contempt for death."

"They were the only ones who never retired without being ordered to. I am sorry to say that was not the case with all of our fellows."

"Shall I tell you why we were defeated? Imagine for a moment that you were a fighting man, that you were a subaltern with a sector to hold. Now you knew that to your right and your left there were officers holding the neighbouring sectors whom you knew well. You knew, too, that they would retire without orders at the first moment things got a bit tricky."

"What would you do, my friend? You would beat it too. And that's what happened all along our fronts."

After that no one said anything more. We undressed and went to sleep.

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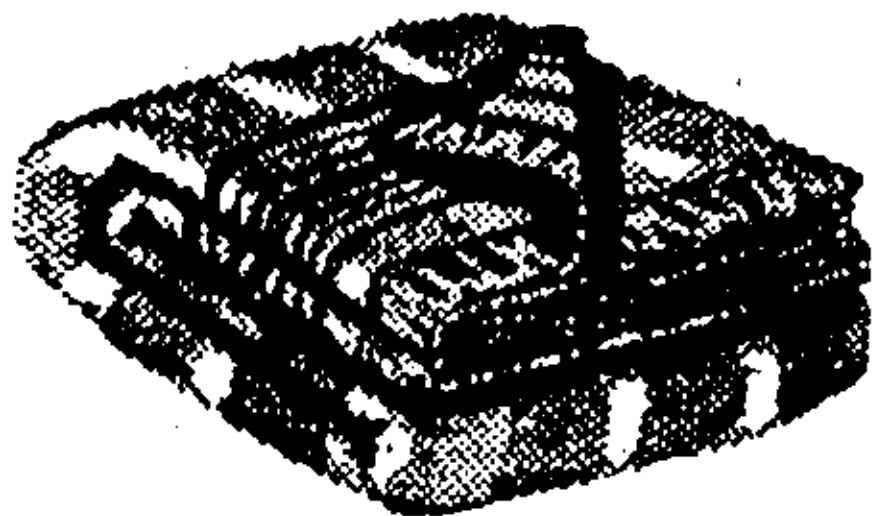
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Two adventurous sweethearts turned into fourteen-inch-tall humanettes by the diabolical "Dr. Cyclops" are played by Janice Logan and Thomas Co'ey in the Technicolour shock drama named after the malign medico. Paramount brings "Dr. Cyclops" to the Queen's and Alhambra Theatres.

GESTAPO SPY IN EVERY NAZI AIR SQUADRON

EVERY FORMATION OF ENEMY PLANES
RAIDING BRITAIN HAS GESTAPO SECRET PO-
LICE AMONG THE CREW. THEIR JOB IS TO
SPY ON THE OTHERS. TO REPORT ANYONE
WHO SHOWS FEAR.

When — and if — they get home Gestapo punishment is meted out to those who "funk" or who get a bad "mention in dispatches" from the spies. So German airmen raiding Britain have two alternatives — to go for their objective and put up something of a show when attacked by British fighters, or . . . be manhandled by the Gestapo.

All Nazi machines are numbered in bold figures. Full reports of the engagements and the behaviour of crews are handed in when what is left of the squadron, after the R.A.F. have slashed it, gets home.

These terror tactics have just come to the knowledge of the R.A.F., a senior R.A.F. officer told a reporter in London.

For It — Both Ways

The enemy seem to have a good idea of what British troops and the Home Guard are ready to hand out to parachutists—but they are taught to fear the same fate themselves.

In contrast is the attitude of the British pilot who was shot down in a sky battle and crashed near a pub. As he scrambled from his wrecked plane with a bullet wound in his right shoulder and his cheek laid open, he said:

"Get me a pint of mild and bitter and let me get back among those — up there." He got his beer.

More Haste —

Two American newspapermen say they have found the reason

why German pilots appear to be so timid—why the raiders often turn and fly back apparently without reason.

Drew Pearson and Robert Allen, who write a column which is syndicated throughout the U.S., say it is because the German planes are not equipped with navigation instruments—only the leader of the squadron carries such instruments.

Every British plane is a complete unit, fully-equipped, and can act independently.

The reason for the failure to equip Nazi planes, the newspapermen say, was Hitler's haste to build them, and the desire to cut down expense.

ILLUSION STAMPEDES FAIR

A panic-stricken crowd stampeded at the Golden Gate Exposition in San Francisco after an unidentified woman shouted "Run, run, the Tower of the Sun is falling!"

Police estimated that fifty persons of the 700 in the stampede were bruised or hurt. Eleven required hospital treatment.

J. G. Kelly, 43, of Oakland, tried to stem the panic. He jumped to a bench and shouted for calm, but a phalanx of terrified women and children, rushing from behind, knocked him from his perch and battered him against the benches.

The spectators, mostly women and children, were watching Jo-Jo, the clown, in a free, outdoor Candyland review near the Tower of the Sun, the tallest structure on Treasure Island in San Francisco Bay.

Fog clouds around the sun sometimes give the illusion that the huge tower is falling.

A.F.S. CHEAT DEATH

Heroes of London's air-blitz are the firemen, regulars and auxiliaries alike. Yet there are still people whose idea of a joke is to give a false fire alarm, just at the time when these heroes are hoping to snatch an hour of precious sleep.

I spent a day with these heroes, listening to their own stories of their work, writes a reporter.

"Nobody stood out when an alarm came," said a station officer. "We had to stand there and like it. Nobody flinched, whether it was a matter of falling walls, bombs exploding or a hail of machine-gun bullets."

Blown In Dock

There was Joe. He was in full kit, working to stop the spread of a petrol fire when the blast of a bomb blew him into the dock.

"Yes, there was Joe right in the big drink," said a comrade who saw it happen.

"We thought he was done for, but a couple of A.F.S. men pulled him out. They applied artificial respiration and he was sent home. When he got there he had a hot bath. He was back on the job in two hours."

Bill was one of a couple of engine crews who penetrated into the heart of a timber fire in dock-land. Here is his own story:

"We went through some blazing timber. Just as we got inside the sirens went again. Down came dozens of incendiaries and in a few minutes the timber on the other side of us was ablaze."

"There was a ring of fire round us and craters in the roads."

"The order came to get out as fast as we could. The driver jumped on one machine and got most of us away, but three of us were left with the other machine."

"I hadn't driven for eight years, but I managed to get out with the other two boys."

EASIER AID FOR HOMELESS

Central Offices Scheme

Central offices combining in one building all the departments dealing with problems of bombed-out householders are to be set up in affected areas all over Britain.

Local authorities have received a circular letter from the Ministry of Health, signed by Mr. Henry Willink, M.P., London's chief of clearance and repair, advising them to organise these central offices as quickly as possible.

More than a dozen London boroughs have already centralised their organisation. Several have concentrated every department in one room, where bomb-dispossessed householders move in rotation from one official to another and complete their business "in a space a few square yards, instead of tramping from one part of the borough to another."

In one thickly-populated and much-bombed London borough (writes a correspondent) I saw in one room — once the council chamber — public assistance officers, building officers, rehousing and compensation departments, food and medical registration officers, a food and rest centre and a large clothes cupboard.

Apart from short-circuiting the householders' search for help and advice, local central offices will represent in each locality four Government departments — the Board of Education and the Ministries of Food, Health and Home Security.

CIGARS

FOR

CHRISTMAS

C. INGENOHL'S CIGAR STORES

La Perla del Oriente

HOW BARGES ARE BOMBED BY R.A.F.

(BY A LONDON CORRESPONDENT)

HOW GERMAN INVASION PLANS ARE BEING SHATTERED BY REMORSELESS BOMBING OF THE BARGES GATHERED IN OCCUPIED PORTS FROM EMDEN DOWN TO BREST WAS DESCRIBED BY WING-COMMANDER W. B. MURRAY, WHO WAS RECENTLY AWARDED THE D.F.C. FOR HIS PART IN THE OPERATIONS. THE ATTACKS HAVE BEEN CARRIED ON WITHOUT REMISSION SINCE THE MIDDLE OF JULY.

Wing-Commander Murray, who is 27 and looks much more youthful, is typical of the young cavaliers of the R.A.F.

"I am in command of a Blenheim squadron which is more or less on reconnaissance duties," he said. "Our awards are cumulative, and are more for successful work on a number of flights than for any one exploit."

"We watch all the German shipping that is moving up and down the coast, and observe whether more or fewer ships are getting into certain harbours. If it is more, they may be bombed."

Surprising Them

"Most of these attacks on harbours are done at night, and we always try to surprise the enemy by attacking with different machines from a number of directions at once, and at all sorts of altitudes, high and low."

"The barges are a doubtful quantity at the moment. No one knows what is inside them, as they are all closed. They appear to be about 80 feet long. Those we have destroyed have not blown up as they would, of course, if they had contained ammunition."

From Dover I often watched the "fireworks" on the other side of the Channel when the R.A.F. bombed Boulogne and Calais; the orange-coloured flaming onions floating up, the concentrations of searchlights, the flashes of bursting bombs and the anti-aircraft fire. Now I have been told of the sensations of a flier in one of those distant invisible planes.

Trip Over Sea

"It is like this," said Wing-Commander Murray. "A short trip over the sea, very calm and pleasant, with a certain amount of worry about what lies ahead, then about five minutes when everything on earth seems to have been let loose in your direction. Usually the searchlights seem to concentrate on one formation, which causes great amusement to the rest of us, till one day you get caught yourself!"

"Anti-aircraft fire is very frightening, indeed, at the time. You see things flash past and splinters hit the plane. But

SUBALTERN'S ALLOWANCES

Mr. Eden, Secretary for War, is likely to be asked in the House of Commons shortly to undertake a review of the financial position of junior officers. The matter is one about which M.P.s have been receiving complaints.

There are three main claims which Mr. Eden will be asked to meet.

The first concerns the £30 equipment grant. Officers have long complained that the grant is not enough to meet the cost. The prices of material of uniforms and other items of equipment will shortly be raised on account of the purchase tax.

The position of the wives and families of officers is also being questioned. Since the start of the war the separation allowances for wives and children and other dependants of other ranks have been raised, but officers are still limited to the old allowance.

The third matter Mr. Eden may be asked to investigate is the pay of officers. This was not changed when other ranks were recently given an additional 6d. a day.

afterwards, as a rule, the damage done does not seem very great.

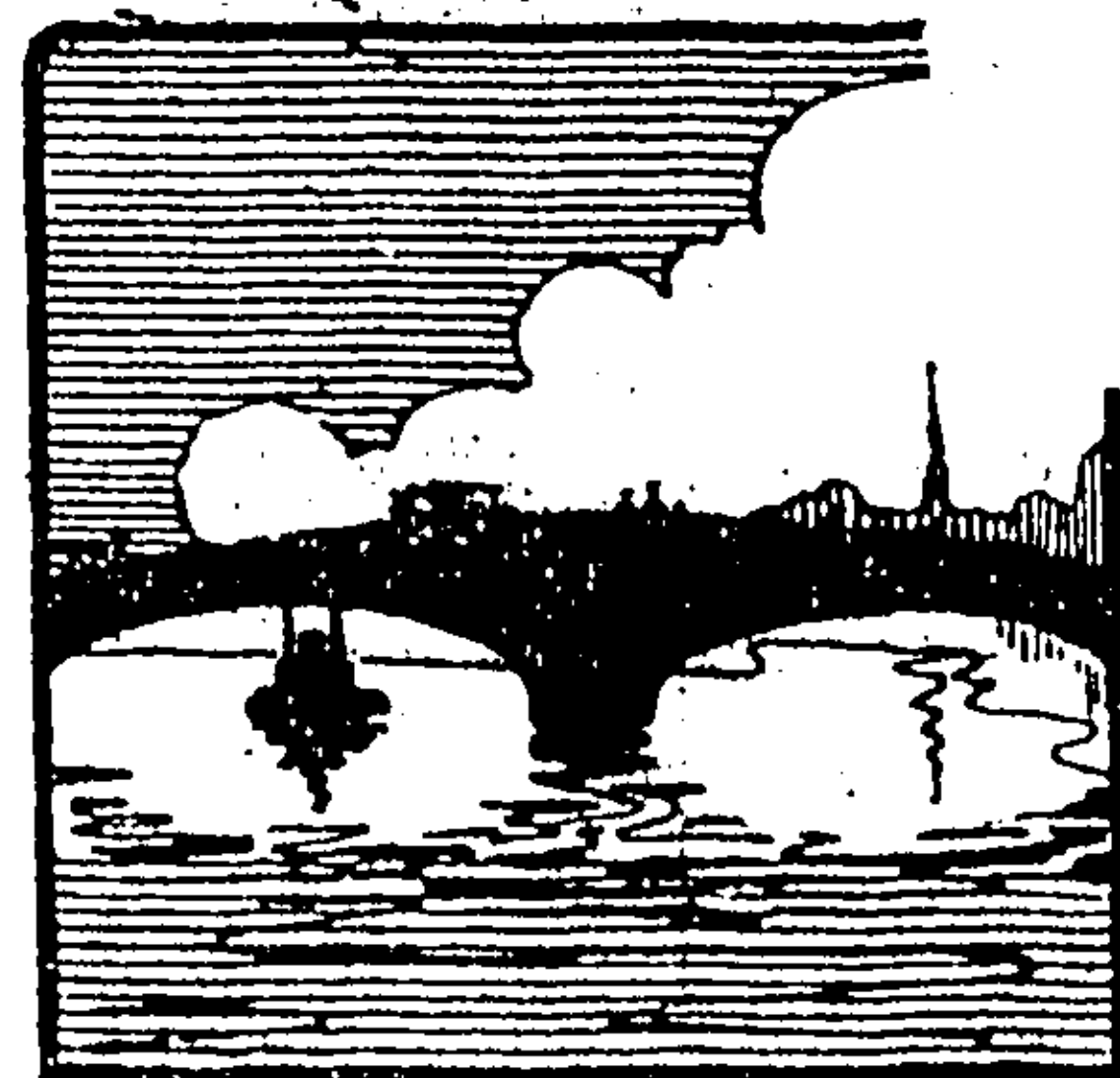
"The Germans have a balloon barrage both at Calais and Boulogne. Our chaps have often flown through it, and sometimes touched the cables with their wings, managing to get back home safe with a bent aircraft. We try not to hit anything outside the target area, which is usually the harbour."



Ready for a day in school, Virginia Welder, who is featured in "The Philadelphia Story," rides her bicycle to school wearing a two-piece ensemble. Her skirt is navy serge with all-round unpressed pleats. With it she wears a starched yellow cotton blouse with pencil stripes in navy. The sleeves are long and full and button at the wrist in a regular tailored cuff.

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CHRISTMAS DAY

—WEDNESDAY—

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—THURSDAY—

DECEMBER 26th, 1940.

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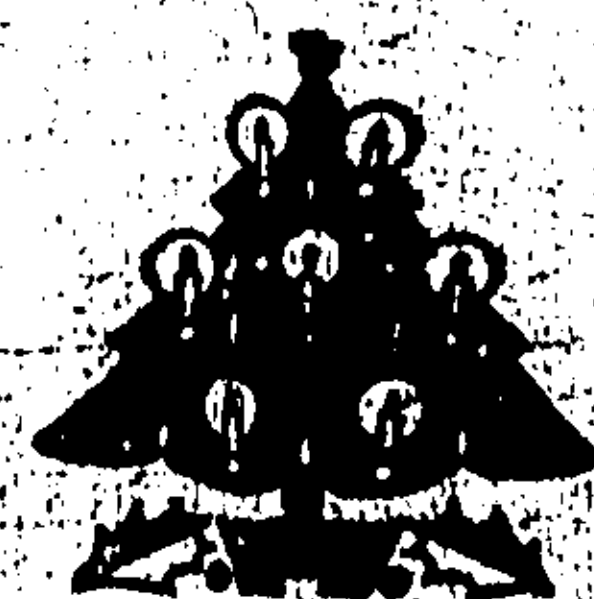
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Kindly note that as from 30th DECEMBER, 1940, our New Office Address will be:—

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PUBLIC AUCTIONS

The Undersigned have received instructions from the Liquidators and Others to sell by Public Auction on

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1 Small Water Bath, 200 V.
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Terms: Cash on Delivery.

LAMBERT BROS.,

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Hong Kong, 18th Dec., 1940.

BRIDGE NOTES

A BIDDING QUESTION

By The Four Aces

"We failed to get to a slam the other day, and we're not kicking about that," write E.S.S., of Baltimore, "but the hand produced a discussion of bidding which resulted in quite a bit of argument — some friendly and some not so friendly — without settling anything.

Here's the hand:

South, Dealer
Neither side vulnerable

♠ Q 10 6	♥ K 7 5 2	♦ Q 6	♣ A 8 7 2
♠ J 7 5 2	♥ 8 4 3	♦ 7 4 2	♣ 9 5 4
♠ 8 4 3	♥ 7 4 2	♦ 9 5 4	♣ J 10 3
♠ A 9	♥ A J 10 6	♦ A K 10 3	♣ K Q 6

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass
3♥ Pass 3♥ Pass
5♥ Pass 5♥ Pass

"As you can see, the hand is pretty cold for six hearts, but we stopped at five. South claims that North underbid all the way along the line. North claims that he bid hearts twice, and thus showed his hand adequately; and that South then knew enough to be able to bid the slam if he wanted to. In other words, North claims that he could have passed three diamonds if he had held less strength; so that the bid of three hearts is a real bid rather than just a forced response. How about it?"

We agree with South. North's hand is too strong for a simple raise to two hearts to begin with; two clubs is a better response. Having bid only two hearts, it is then up to North to bid as strongly as he can thereafter to show his strength. The best response to three diamonds is four clubs. North thus shows the club Ace, together with encouragement of any slam ambitions South may entertain.

A pass of three diamonds would be just about unthinkable no matter how weak the North hand was—unless, perhaps, he should have passed one heart. The return to three hearts is therefore just a forced response—showing the very weakest kind of simple raise. Even a jump to four hearts over three diamonds would have been a slight underbid; and the bid of only three hearts was therefore far worse.

Yesterday you were Merwin

EVACUATION REPRESENTATION COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING

A public meeting of those interested in the Evacuation Representation Committee will be held at the Peninsula Hotel on FRIDAY, December 27, at 6 p.m., to receive a statement from the Committee in connection with the reply to the Petition submitted on November 22.

F. C. CLEMO,
Hon. Secretary.

Maier's partner and, with both sides vulnerable, you hold:

♠ 9 7 6 4
♥ J 7
♦ K 10 8 6
♣ K 9 7

The bidding:

Maier	Schenker	You	Jacoby
1♥	Pass	1NT	Pass
2♠	Pass	(?)	

ANSWER: Bid three spades. Even though your entire strength consists only of two kings, you must nevertheless give your partner another chance to get to game. His bidding shows a very strong hand, and your spade support may be vital.
Score 100% for three spades, 30% for pass.

Question No. 595

To-day you are Oswald Jacoby's partner and, with neither side vulnerable, you hold:

♠ A 7
♥ 9 8 6 5
♦ A K 7 2
♣ 8 4 2

The bidding:

Jacoby	Schenker	You	Maier
1♣	Pass	(?)	

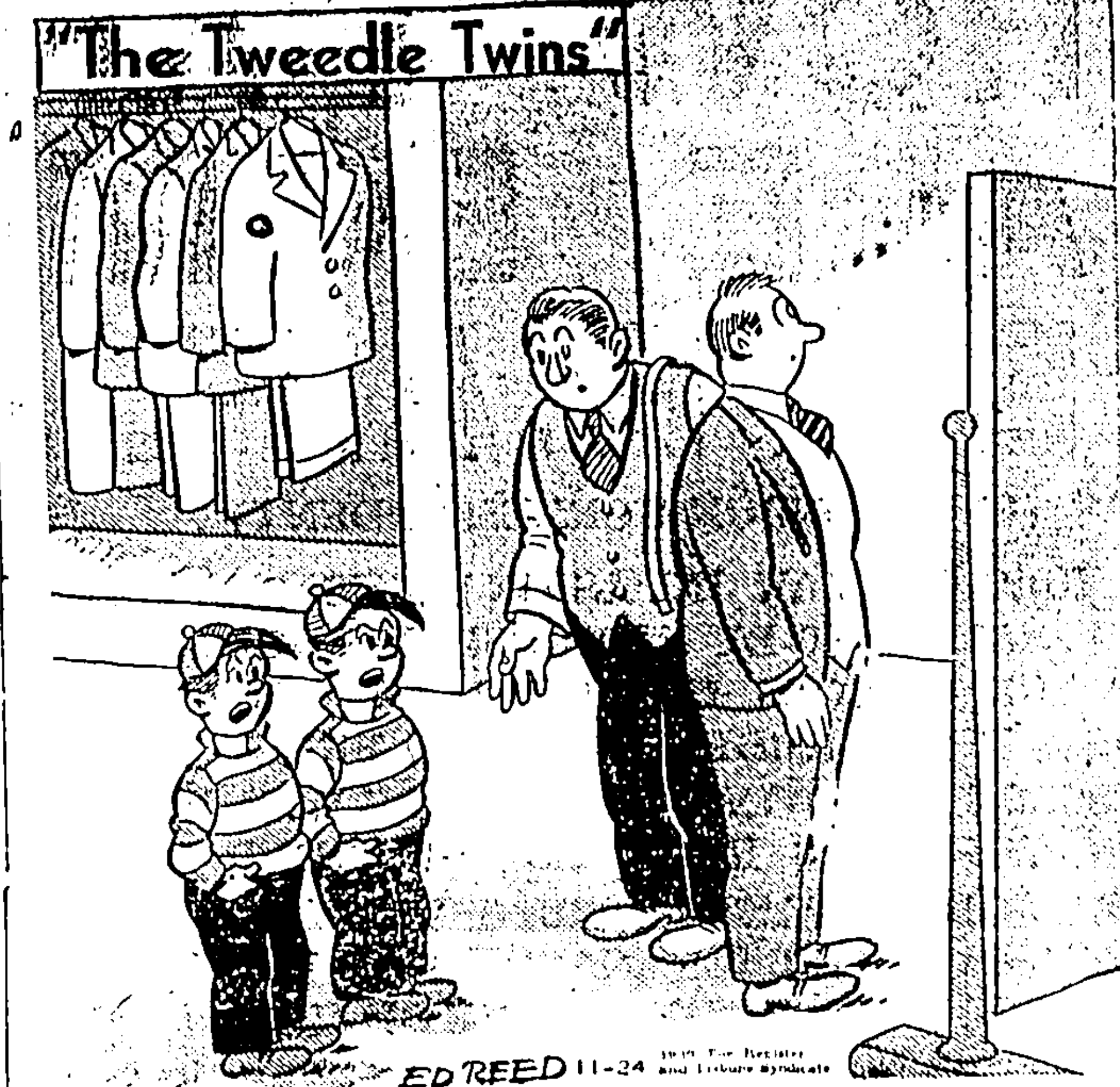
What do you bid? (Answer Monday.)



The mentally sketchy girlfriend is sure her beau is really trying to be helpful when he suggests all she needs to make her shine is a brighter shade of nail polish.

OFF THE RECORD

By ED REED



"Better get two pair of pants, Pop, or one of us will be out of luck when Ma cuts the suit down."

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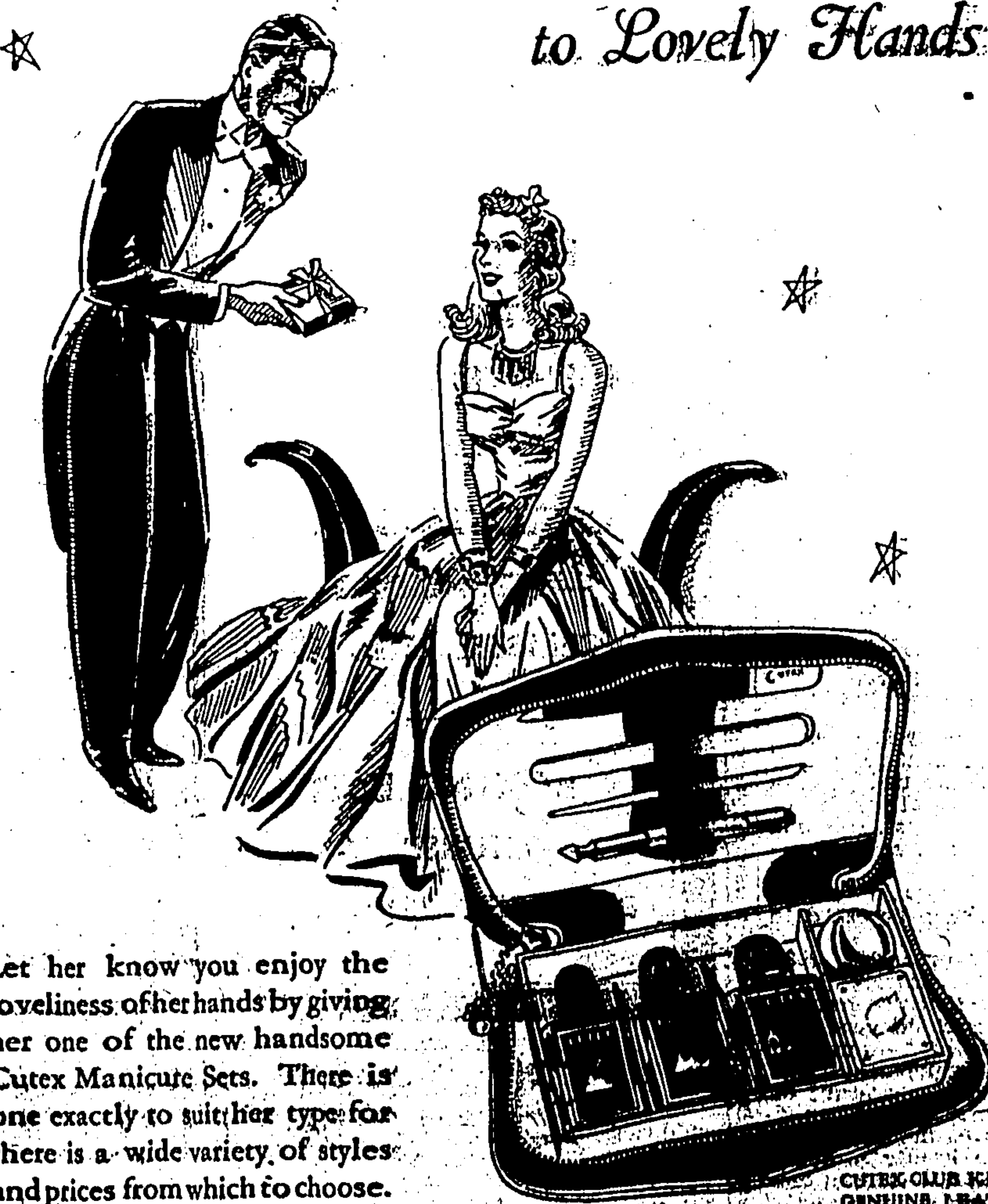
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Bring Up Father

By George MacManus



A PAGE FOR WOMEN

Grace Of Body

No woman can have a body beautiful solely by keeping to normal weight and ardently wishing. Grace of body—both contour and movement—is acquired by exercising the body in one way or the other. Our bodies were made for action and when we grow lazy and do not exercise them they lose their figure appeal quickly and our movements grow jerky and unlovely to watch.

Various Forms Of Exercise

If you are a habitual reader of this column you know that there are many methods of exercising from which to choose. A woman may study ballet or ballroom dancing, she may join a gymnasium or swimming club, she may walk three miles a day in loose clothing and firm supporting shoes, or she may go through a routine of calisthenics at home. Sports also offer a very pleasing and efficacious form of exercise. So no woman has an excuse for being physically lazy.

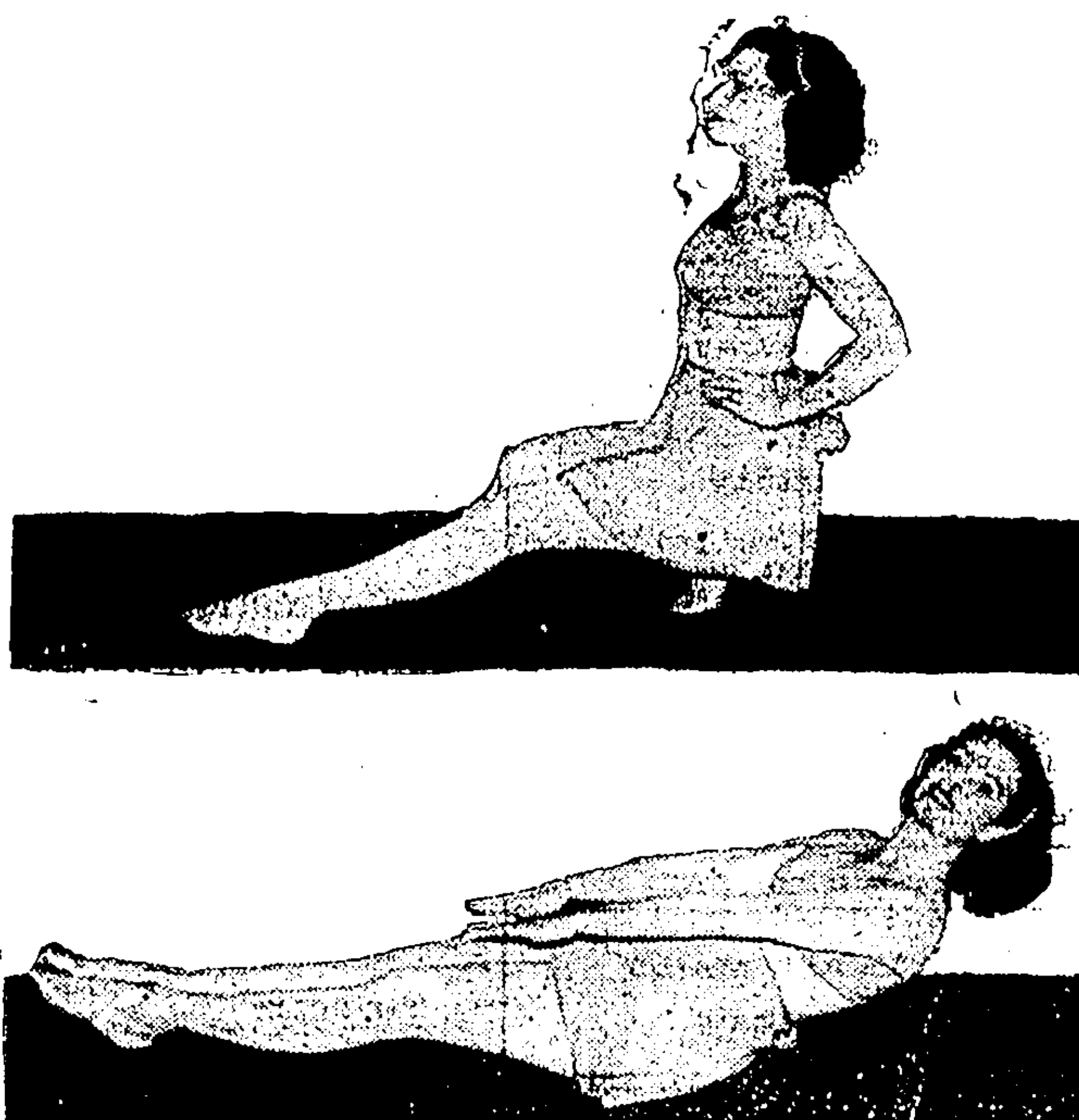
The grand thing about sufficient exercise is that it makes one feel so fit and energetic. Some women are under the delusion that they must save their strength so therefore they cannot exercise. Unless a physical malcondition prevents you from taking exercise, you will discover that regular exercise done rhythmically and willingly creates strength. It does not tax strength.

Exercise Prevents Disease

By keeping fit one builds up an immunity to many physical ailments. You undoubtedly have known a very old lady at one time or another, who was spared many of the ailments common to old people. "Fit as a fiddle," was she and getting a lot of fun out of her waning life. Such a woman most likely had led a very active life, but a sensible one. She probably bore children, had a certain amount of work to do daily which she did cheerfully, and used her spare hours walking, gardening or otherwise was physically active. She didn't rely on an automobile to take her two blocks to the market! She didn't mind wheeling her babies a few miles in the open air each day. She liked to do her housework and she planned it so she would not get too tired. If she were modern for her day she most likely enjoyed a competitive game such as tennis, badminton, croquet, golf or she rode and swam. For keeping her body in condition she reaped good health and a sound perspective when she grew old.

Women Too Lazy

Many women today are too lazy for their own good. They find innumerable excuses for not keeping their bodies in the pink of condition. Overweight or underweight is excused because of an imagined ailment. Lethargy is charged to too much work. Stiff joints are the fault of the climate or weather. Drab beauty is theirs because their trials have been too many. All is nonsense. Every woman can and should find time to protect her health! And sufficient exercise is one of the four primary rules of health. The other three are—well balanced menus, enough rest and a certain amount of recreation. Of the four, exercise is the most important.



MAUREEN O'HARA believes keeping fit through ballet limbering exercises. Above she squats on her heels and then extends first one leg then the other as shown. This keeps her limber. Below: Maureen rises to a sitting position without aid of her hands or arms. This slims the midriff and strengthens the spine.

Shampoo Less Often

Women are advised by leading scalp specialists to cease stripping their hair of natural lubrication once a week by shampooing. "Every three weeks is frequent enough to shampoo normal or dry hair", they claim, "but the scalp must be kept clean between shampoos by a brushing-in treatment with a non-greasy scalp tonic."

You might test their advice. If you have been in the habit of dashing to the hairdresser's once a week for a shampoo and set, try a new schedule. Go for your setting, so your hair will look well groomed, and get a scalp massage and good hair brushing. Instead of a shampoo for two weeks. The third week have your hair washed thoroughly. Between shampoos learn to cleanse your scalp with absorbent cotton wrung out of a good tonic. Simply part your hair, rub your scalp with the tonic, dry it. Keep parting it until the entire head has been cleansed. Then brush it with a clean brush, from the scalp up to the very end of the hair. Do this only once a week unless you have a condition which needs correction such as dandruff.

If you select a non-greasy tonic (there are several excellent ones offered by reliable specialists), your wave will not be in the least affected, and the scientific brushing will beautify your wave greatly, giving it a depth and gloss which you cannot otherwise obtain.

Dressing For Dry Hair

After many consultations I am convinced that it is better to have

your hair set with plain water instead of with a waving lotion unless you set your hair at home and allow it to dry gradually. The heat of the dryers more or less bakes the lotion on the hair and rob it of a freshness which it should have after it has been combed into place. For home use you should experiment with one of those quick-drying lotions which are greatly diluted in comparison to most lotions used in salons.

I know many hairdressers will not agree with this but be your own judge and give the suggestion a trial. If your hair is inclined to be stubborn, very soft, or very dry, brush on a bit of pomade, hairdressing AFTER your setting but under no circumstances allow the hair dresser to squirt a lot of sticky-brilliantine on your crown of glory.

There is nothing more beautiful than a head of rich, naturally lustrous hair which can be of feather softness about the face, but still fashion into a rolled pompadour or swirl. Your hair can be this versatile if you will pamper it into good condition by refraining from too frequent shampoos and having some conviction that you know what's good for it!

Government House Sewing Centre of the B. W. O. F. will be closed on 25th December, and 1st January. The Knitting Centre at the Helena May Institute will be closed on 26th December.

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BOMBAY & KARACHI via Singapore, Penang and Colombo	Melbourne Maru 24th Dec.
CALCUTTA via Saigon, Singapore, Belawan Deli and Rangoon	
SAIGON	
KEELUNG via Swatow & Amoy	
CANTON	Sirogane Maru 22nd Dec. Sirogane Maru 26th Dec. Sirogane Maru 30th Dec.

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Small Packet Post to all countries is suspended.

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On Wednesday, 25th December, and Thursday, 26th December, the General Post Office and Branch Post Offices will be open as follows:—

Wednesday, 25th	Thursday, 26th
General Post Office	General Post Office
8 a.m. to 10 a.m.	8 a.m. to noon
Kowloon Central P.O.	Kowloon Central P.O.
8 a.m. to 10 a.m.	8 a.m. to noon
Sheungwan Branch P.O.	Sheungwan Branch P.O.
8 a.m. to 9 a.m.	8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

All other Branch Post Offices and Money Order Office will be entirely closed during the Holidays.

There will be one collection from the pillar boxes each day as on Sundays and one delivery of registered and ordinary correspondence at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, 25th and at 11.30 a.m. on Thursday, the 26th.

There will also be one delivery of ordinary correspondence each day at 11.00 a.m. from the Branch Post Office at Stanley, Taipo and Un Long.

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Air Mail by "British Overseas Airways Service" by sea from Singapore
WEDNESDAY

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London and Straits
London and Straits

THURSDAY

U.S.A., Honolulu, Japan and Shanghai (San Francisco date, 6th December).
U.S.A., Honolulu and Manila (San Francisco date, 3rd December).

SUNDAY

Air Mail by "Pan-American Airways Direct Service"—San Francisco date, 17th December.
Java and Manila.

FOR DATE & TIME

OUTWARD MAILS

SATURDAY
Canton 5.30 p.m.

MONDAY
Straits and Calcutta
Parcels 10.30 a.m.
Letters 11.30 a.m.
Shanghai, Japan, Canada, U.S.A., Central and South America and United Kingdom via Victoria B.C. (Parcels for Canada only).
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Reg. 2.00 p.m.
Ord. 2.30 p.m.
Straits, Ceylon, India, East and South Africa 3.30 p.m.

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12.15 p.m.—Short Service of Intercession.
12.30 p.m.—Greta Keller (Vocal) and Primo Scala's Accordion Band.
1.03 p.m.—Selections from Light Opera.
1.30 p.m.—Reuter and Rugby Press, Weather Forecast and Announcements.
1.45 p.m.—Max Miller in the Holborn Empire Theatre.
2.05 p.m.—Reginald Dixon at the Organ.
2.15 p.m.—Close down.
6.30 p.m.—Closing Local Stock Quotations.
6.32 p.m.—Compositions of Beethoven.
7.00 p.m.—London Relay—The News.
7.15 p.m.—London Relay—"Questions of the Hour".
7.30 p.m.—Selections from Gilbert and Sullivan.
8.00 p.m.—Local Time Signal, Weather Report and Announcements.
8.02 p.m.—London Relay—"Garrison Theatre".
9.00 p.m.—London Relay—The News & News Commentary.
9.30 p.m.—Local Sports Results.
9.33 p.m.—A Light French Programme with Albert Prejean and Dania.
10.00 p.m.—Half an hour of Old Time Variety.
10.30 p.m.—London Relay—"Balloon Barrage": A Topical Feature.
11.00 p.m.—London Relay—Talk: "In My Opinion".
11.15 p.m.—Dance Music.
12.00 midnight—Close down.



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Orders by Colonel H. B. Rose, M.C., Commandant, Hong Kong Volunteer Defence Corps.

PARADES

(a) CORPS ARTILLERY

H. Q. Office

Will be open from 5.30 p.m. to 6.15 p.m. on—

Mon. 23rd Dec.

Mon. 30th Dec.

Fri. 3rd Jan.

1st Battery

The next parade will be on

Tues. 7th Jan. H.Q. 8 a.m. for

D'Aguilar.

2nd Battery

Sun. 5th Jan. H.Q. Miniature

Range. 9 a.m. Those detailed.

Thurs. 9th Jan. H. Q. 8 a.m.

for Bluff Head.

3rd Battery

Mon. 23rd Dec. St. John's Place

5.30 p.m.

Mon. 30th Dec. St. John's Place.

5.30 p.m.

All N.C.O.'s. Dress—Overalls.

S.D. cap, web belt and bayonet

frog.

Fri. 27th Dec. St. John's Place.

5.30 p.m. B.C.A.'s Class.

Fri. 3rd Jan. St. John's Place.

5.30 p.m. B.C.A.'s Class.

Thurs. 9th Jan. H.Q. 8 a.m. for

Aberdeen.

4th Battery

Next parade will be on Thurs.

2nd Jan. Queen's Pier. 2 p.m.

Dress—Jacket, shorts, puttees, S.D.

cap and web belt. Great coat, gun

platform shoes and overalls to be

carried.

Thurs. 9th Jan. H.Q. 8 a.m. for

Pak Sha Wan.

(a) CORPS ARTILLERY

vi. 5th A.A. Battery

There will be no parade next

week.

(b) FIELD COMPANY

ENGINEERS

There will be no parade next

week.

(c) CORPS SIGNALS

There will be no further parades

until Wed. 8th Jan. with the ex-

ception of such Fatigue parades as

may be ordered by the C.S.M.

(d) MOBILE COLUMN

Fri. 27th Dec. H.Q. 5.30 p.m. All

ranks. Talk by O.C. Dress—

Muff.

All S.B.R.s. not already handed

in will be brought on this parade.

(e) NO. 1 COMPANY

The next parade will be on Mon.

6th Jan. H.Q. 8.30 a.m. Platoons

will proceed to Pt. Areas.

(f) NO. 3 COMPANY

There will be no further parades

until Mon. 6th Jan. with excep-

tion of Fatigue parades for those

detailed.

All ranks are reminded that

Musketry Table B will be fired at

Kowloon City Range on Sunday

12th Jan.

(g) NO. 4 COMPANY

Next parade will be at H.Q. at

5.30 p.m. on Fri. 3rd Jan. Com-

pletion of T.O.E.T. Classes 9 and

10, all recruits and men who have

not yet completed the Tests as de-

tailed will parade.

(h) NO. 5 COMPANY

There will be no parade until

further orders.

(i) NO. 6 COMPANY

There will be no parade until

further orders.

(j) NO. 7 COMPANY

There will be no further parades

until Mon. 6th Jan.

(k) ARMY SERVICE CORPS

COMPANY

There will be no parade until

the New Year. All S.B.R.s. to be

returned with delay.

(l) FIELD AMBULANCE

There will be no parade till

Wed. 8th Jan.

(m) PAY SECTION

There will be no parade until

further notice.

CORPS ORDERS—AMENDMENT

Corps Orders No. 63/39 dated

15.12.39. para. 12. STRENGTH-

INCREASE. For "Boris, B." read

"B. Boncharoff". For "I. Nicolas"

read "N. Ivaschenko."

Corps Orders No. 72/40 dated

12.12.40. para. 6. LEAVE. Leave

granted to Gnr. J.R.A. Pearne, 5th

A.A. Bty. For "17.12.40-17.1.41"

to read "17.12.40-27.1.41."

LEAVE

Pte. N. Whitley 6.12.40.-17.12.40.

Pte. G. W. Paterson 16.12.40.-

15.1.41.

Capt. F. J. W. Focken, 18.12.40.-

31.1.41.

L/Cpl. R. B. Mace 19.12.40.-

27.1.41.

Gnr. W. L. Cunningham

19.12.40.-18.2.41.

Pte. J. M. Mackinnon 20.12.40.-

3.1.41.

Pte. J. N. Sweeney 21.12.40.-

11.4.41.

Pte. W. G. Robertson 23.12.40.-

6.1.41.

A/Sgt. J. Wolfe 24.12.40.-10.1.41.

Lieut. L. Goldman 1.1.41.-

22.4.41.

C.S.M. L. W. Hume 1.1.41.-

22.4.41.

E. N. THURSBY, Captain,

Adjutant, H.K.V.D. Corps.

AFFILIATED UNIT

Nursing Detachment, H.K.V.D.C.

1. LECTURE

There will be no further lec-

tures until Jan. 1941.

2. DANCE AT Y.M.C.A.

Dance at Y.M.C.A. on 27th Jan.

for the Combined Services. It is

hoped that as many of the de-

tachment as can will attend.

3. Q.M.S. STORES

The Quarter Master Stores will

not be open on Xmas Day and

New Year's Day. Indoor Hos-

pital uniforms etc. may be drawn

Mon. 23rd Dec.-Wed. 8th Jan.

4. LEAVE

Mrs. K. D. Hume—1.1.41 to

31.12.41.

Sdg. I.M.S. BRAUDE,

Commandant,

Nursing Detachment, H.K.V.D.C.

TABLE TENNIS

FIRST BLOOD TO MACAO

Hong Kong defeated

Macao by 4-1 in the

Ladies' Interport table

tennis series last evening

in the Chinese Y.M.C.A.

The best match of the evening

was that between Yeung Wai-bun

and Cheng Ching-hin, captains of

the respective teams, and cham-

pions of the contesting ports,

which resulted in a win for the

former by 2-0.

Following were the scores:—

Wong Oi-lan (H.K.) beat Law

Sin, 21-14, 22-20.

Mok Woon-king (H.K.) lost to

Ho Sui-fan, 21-18, 18-21,

15-21.

So Yim-hing (H.K.) beat Cheuk

Yuet-ngan, 21-19, 21-17.

Yeung Wai-bun (H.K. Capt.)

beat Cheng Ching-hin (Capt.)

21-13, 21-11.

Lo Chiu Yi (H.K.) beat Li Ying-

ngor, 21-11, 21-18.

TO-DAY'S GAMES

The men's matches will be held

at the Chinese "Y" Bridges Street

at 8 p.m. to-day, when a brilliant

and exciting display is anticipated

as both sides possess an equal

number of players of the highest

class.

It is obviously impossible for

observers to foretell which side

will win and an exciting finish by

a narrow margin is expected.

Teams

Hong Kong:—Lee Chun-hang,

Leung Cheuk-fai, Lo Kwai-sang,

Li Chi-chiu, Wong Ip-sing, Liu

Sik-cheung, Lau Kwok-chiu, Yuen

Keng-wan and Wun Wing-leung.

Macao:—Yeung Kam-chan,

Cheng Kwok-wing, Wu Kam-

ying, Koon Wing-po, Wong Wing-

lin, Wong Wing-on, Kwok Koon-

ying, Cheng Shu-ching, Leung

Man-woon and Luk Lar-wu.

THEY DO 'LET THE PEOPLE SING'

"Let the People Sing" meetings

are being organised for West

Country workers and their wives

in small villages.

The campaign, organised by the

S.W. Ministry of Information, has

started in Dorset.

The meetings proved a great

success. So now they are to be

continued in Dorset, Cornwall,

and Devon.

Miss E. M. Delafield is address-

ing every meeting, but half the

time is devoted to singing, led by

community song leaders.

That the Press should be re-

quested to note that any action

taken by the umpire in a hockey

match should not be criticised was

the decision reached at the Hoc-

key Umpires' Association meeting

ing held last evening at St. An-

drew's Church Hall.

After heated argument it was also

agreed that owing to insufficient

referees in the Association, un-

qualified umpires, appointed by

the Association, should be accept-

ed as an official appointed and

would receive the fullest support

from the Association.

The meeting also decided that

umpires would be responsible for

forwarding results of matches to

the Association and cards for this

purpose would be provided.

Capt. Martin, President of the

Association, was in the chair.

GOLF CLUB MEETING

Mr. A. K. Mackenzie was elect-

ed Captain of the Royal Hong

Kong Golf Club at the annual

meeting held yesterday in the

board room of Messrs. Jardine,

Matheson and Co. The new Cap-

tain will drive himself in on De-

cember 29 when His Excellency

the Acting Governor, Lieut.-Gen.

E. F. Norton, C.B., D.S.O., M.C.,

will also pay his first visit to the

Royal Hong Kong Golf Club.

After the report and accounts

had been adopted, Mr. Young

proposed the election of Mr. A. K.

Mackenzie as Captain.

The following were elected to

the Committee:—Messrs D. H.

Blake, A. D. Humphreys, F. D.

Hunter, J. A. D. Morrison, H. H.

Mundy, F. A. Redmond, A. Som-

merfelt, G. C. Worrall, and R.

Young.

EASTERN CANNOT AFFORD TO SLIP UP AGAINST MIDDLESEX

Chinese Team All Out For Two Points

GOOD CHARITY GAMES FOR TO-MORROW

By "Referee"

THE BEST GAME ON TO-DAY'S SOCCER PROGRAMME SHOULD BE THAT AT CAROLINE HILL, WHERE EASTERN AND MIDDLESEX MEET IN FIRST DIVISION.

Middlesex have, in several of their recent games, shown early signs of easily winning, only to drop off badly in the closing stages, while Eastern, in spite of their training, do not seem able to finish strongly.

Eastern cannot take any chances at the present stage of the League and will be all out to collect both points.

Their team is unchanged, while Middlesex will probably be without Marable, their left winger.

Royals Should Win

Royals should collect both points from Saints in spite of the latter's improved showing against Sing Tao last week. Saints will be without Fernandes their centre-half, and D. Leonard will take his place, with Bowen filling the right-back position.

There are no outstanding games in the Second and Third Divisions. To-morrow two charity games will be played at Causeway Bay between teams representing the Association and Combined Chinese. The first game commences at 2.30 p.m. and the proceeds will be divided equally between the Canteen and Ambulance Fund of the Rotary Club, The Chinese Youths' Medical Association and Hong Kong and Macao Relief Association.

Prices of admission have been increased and 300 reserved tickets at \$5 each have already been sold.

V.R.C. TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Following are first-round results in the Badminton Tournament at Victoria Recreation Club:

Singles Handicap:—A. A. Remedios (—1) beat A. A. Gutierrez (scr.); A. A. Noronha (—3) beat N. A. E. Mackay (—7); A. K. Rumjahn (—5) beat Dr. Ribeiro (—1); R. J. Reed (scr.) beat L. A. Barros (—2) and A. Zimmerli (scr.) beat M. M. de V. Soares (—9).

Mixed Doubles Handicap:—S. A. Rumjahn and Miss L. Curreen (—10) beat O. el Arculli and Miss J. el Arculli (—1); L. A. Barros and Miss B. M. Soares (scr.) beat J. Marques and Miss A. Sequeira (plus 3).

SOCCER HIGHLIGHTS

By "REFeree"

OUTSTANDING performance in the football world last week was South China's victory over Service Corps by five clear goals. The latter were considered strong contenders for the Second Division title but were no match for the Chinese. The Soldiers' forward line could do nothing against South China's defence which is the best in this division. In the 12 games played so far South China have only conceded 9 goals.

Neither Sing Tao nor Eastern had their own way in their First Division games on Sunday against St. Joseph's and Police respectively. Sing Tao, though the better team, were fully extended by Saints, who had had luck on several occasions. Lai Shui-wing showed that he has lost little of his old shooting form when he scored three goals with first timers.

With an all Chinese team Kwong Wah managed to snatch a point from Middlesex after being two goals down at the interval. Cheuk Shek-kam and Wong King-cheung were outstanding in Kwong Wah's attack and it is only just that they should receive recognition for Sunday's Charity games.

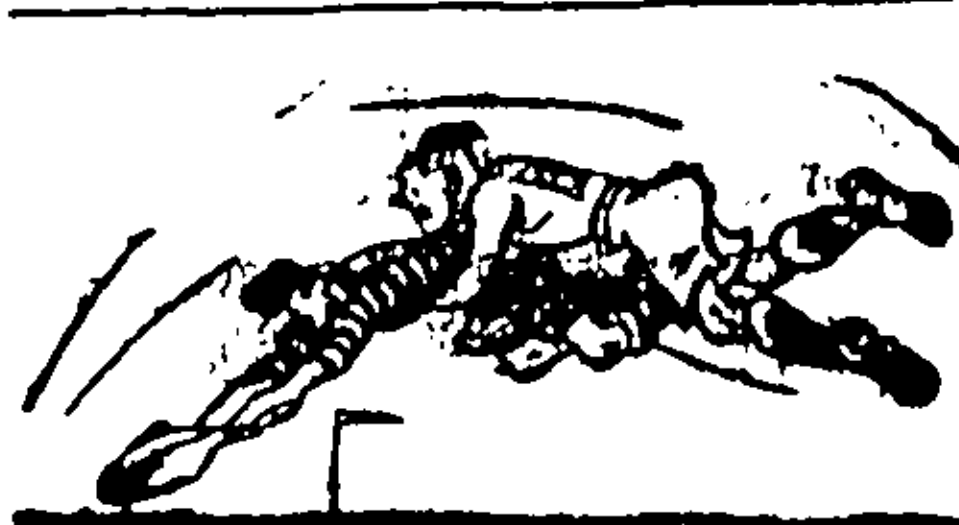
Army Service Corps have been forced to withdraw their Third Division team from the Hong Kong Football League owing to the heavy calls of military duties at this time of the year.

O'Regan, who has been chosen to represent the Association in the main Charity game on Sunday, is now playing for Navy Juniors and on Sunday scored three of the goals against Kwong Wah.

As both Leung Wing-chui and Chui Ah-fai will be out of Sing Tao's team for some time owing to injuries the half-back line will have to be reorganised. Luk Tat-hang has joined them from South China and this should help them to a great extent.

The prominent Chinese players of the Colony, and for that matter

(Continued at foot of next Col.)



NAVY V. CLUB RETURN RUGBY GAME

Club and Navy, who drew 5—5 in their first encounter, will meet at 4 p.m. to-day at Causeway Bay in the Second Round of the Quadrangular Rugby Tournament.

It is anyone's game. If Navy can reproduce last Saturday's form they should win again.

The short punt ahead is Navy's best method of attack to-day, and on the success of these tactics will depend the result of the game.

Navy are without Taylor, one of their best forwards, but have McGill back in place of Kennedy. Club have Godfrey back at wing-forward and Charter in the centre, though they will again miss Gairdner from the second row.

Following are the teams:

CLUB:—Thompson; Stewart, Carruthers, Charter and Bosanquet; Atkenhead and Thomson; Macrae, Burford, Heasman; Needham, Hackett; Godfrey, Taylor and Kennedy.

NAVY:—Lt. Morahan; S/Lt. McGill, Tel. Honeywill, A/Ldg. Tel. Paul and A/Ldg. Tel. Bowden; Mid. O'Riordan and Lt. Rutherford; S/Lt. Winter, Lt. Watson (Capt.), Sergeant Manfield; C.P.O. W. King, A. N. Oher; A. B. Longmuir, S/Lt. Beattie and S/Lt. Poole.

Reserves:—S/Lt. Kennedy, Cdt. Lambie, L.S.A. Palmer, Lt. (E) Brown and L.A.C. Stockham.

Referee:—Lt. Pirie.

Following will represent Navy "A" against Club "A" at 2.45 p.m.:—F/Lt. Wright; S/Lt. Kennedy (Capt.); A.B. Lilley, P.O. Wilson and P.O. Skinner; Cadet Lambie and A.B. Rees; L.S.A. Palmer, S/Lt. Richards, P.O. Jones; L.A.C. Stockham, P.O. Baugh; S/Lt. Carey, Ldg. Sig. Mitchell and Mid. Murray-Jones.

Reserves:—P.O. Clough, S/Lt. D. ger, L.A.C. Gracie, A.B. Smith, S/Lt. Sumner, Cadet Thornhill and S/Lt. Eager.

"RAPIER'S" POST-SUMMER RACING REVIEW

(CONCLUDED)

CONFUSION BAY, belonging to Mr. T. K. L., established itself as the best of the old and new Griffins, China ponies, on Saturday, when it beat Burford, the Champion pony, by a head in the Hong Kong Autumn Champions in record time.

Since it made its appearance on the local track it has done remarkably well under Mr. L. Dunbar's colours and it won the Championship for Mr. Dunbar last year.

Under the ownership of Mr. T. K. L. it improved by leaps and bounds and was not surprised at it being crowned champion after the Hong Kong Autumn Champions.

OLD GRIFFINS

Confusion Bay also had a win, before the above race, to its credit—in the Essex Handicap—when it beat Craigavad by a short head when ridden by Mr. Black.

Eve of Harvest, that great-hearted pony owned by Sir Victor Sassoon must come next in view of its win in the October Handicap (1½ miles) to equal Burford's record. It was carrying 1 lb. under weight on that occasion and was ridden by Mr. Black, but it had hard luck in not getting a place last Saturday in the Hong Kong Autumn Champions.

Conquering Time's Successes

Conquering Time, with Mr. Wei on, carried off the Tweed Island Bay Handicap from the 1½-mile post at the 7th Extra and then at the 10th Extra it won the Sussex Handicap (First Section) for "B" Class ponies. Peaceful View, ridden by Mr. Pih, put up a fine performance when it won the Austin Handicap (Second Section) at the 8th Extra for "B" Class ponies, leading from start to finish.

Booat Bay, which had not done anything of note for some time accounted for the Norfolk Handicap (Second Section) (novice jockeys) for "C" Class over the mile and gave Mr. Li Shui-fai his first win in his first ride.

King's Worthy won the Tai Po Stakes, also over the mile, for "E" Class ponies and novice jockeys to give Mr. Hoo Pak-ming his first win at the Valley, while Sylvandale, ably ridden by Mr. Tao, scored a nice win in the Castle Peak Handicap for "D" Class ponies (First Section), beating the hot favourite, West Lake, by a short head.

Galaxy's Nice Win

Va'roux gave Mr. Needa a win in the Castle Peak Handicap (Second Section) for "D" Class over six furlongs and Galaxy (Mr. Tao) showed itself to be still a stayer over the Derby distance when it scored a nice win in the St. Andrew's Stakes to repeat its success of last year.

Rob Roy had to wait until the last meeting for a success in the Last Chance Handicap. It was ably ridden by the veteran Mr. Charles over the mile.

OLD SUBSCRIPTION GRIFFINS

Pride of place must be given to King Kong, the Champion Sub., in view of its second placing to Peaceful View in the Austin Handicap (Second Section) over the mile which it lost by a neck. Since then it has not faced the starter.

Strathbannock, belonging to Mr. J. F. MacGregor, confounded the

many a First Division player, will be overworked in the next week on behalf of charity.

There will be charity games on Sunday, Christmas, Boxing Day and New Year's day in addition to the regular League week-end games. It is probable that many chosen will not be able to turn up for various reasons.

critics when Mr. Treverton brought it in to win the Island Bay Handicap (Second Section) for "C" Class ponies, beating such old-timers as Rose-Queen and Advancing Time to pay out the best win dividend of the year—\$492.60. In consequence of this result the "Daily Double" had to be carried over although there were 798 tickets on the winning pony in the first leg. The handsome sum of \$6,425, therefore, was "brought forward" to the next meeting.

This pony, as mentioned before, provided Mr. Treverton with his graduation from the "red-letter jockeys".

Mr. Sequeira's First Winner

Portrush ridden by Mr. Sequeira won the Junk Bay Handicap for Novice riders. It led from start to finish and gave the jockey his first win at the Valley. West Lake (Mr. Chao) also did well with a win in the Jordan Handicap (First Section) and although it looked every inch a winner in the Castle Peak Handicap (First Section), it went down to Sylvandale by a short head.

This Time (Mr. Wei) did very well in winning the Jordan Handicap (Second Section) carrying the maximum weight of 168 lb. when it beat Valorous (Mr. Hearne) by a short head from the 1½-mile post. Piet Hein (Mr. Wei) had a win in the Hunan Handicap (Second Section), and when it was ridden by Mr. P. P. Botelho, later on, it secured one second and a third. Jack O'Lantern came into the limelight with Mr. Black up when it won the Finale Handicap over the mile to pay \$46 to each of its surprised backers.

THREE FIGURES DIVIDEND

Strathbannock (Mr. Treverton) paid \$492.60 in the Island Bay Handicap (Second Section) at the 7th Extra Meeting. This was the highest during the year. Income Tax (Mr. Tao) paid \$386.30 in the Nullah Nullah Handicap (First Section) at the 9th Extra Meeting to be second best. Vanity Fair (Mr. In Kui-ying) won the Moore Park Handicap at the 8th Extra Meeting to pay \$193.50 although it was later officially disqualified for bumping and boring. March Brown (Mr. Cooper) won the Junk Bay Handicap (Second Section) at the 7th Extra Meeting to pay \$130.50, and Jane Doe (Mr. S. W. Tang) won the Copshavholm Handicap to pay \$108.20 at the 12th Extra Meeting. Booat Bay (Mr. Li Shui-fai) paid \$106.40 to each of its backers at the 10th Extra Meeting.

DAILY DOUBLE FIGURES

At the 7th Extra Meeting, there was no ticket on the winner of the second leg and as a result the pool of \$6,425 was carried over to the 8th Extra Meeting when the Springhurst-Peaceful View combination paid, successful punters \$286. Vanity Fair and Pumpernickel made history at the 9th Extra Meeting with a record dividend of \$7,572 to only one backer. Vanity Fair and Brown Derby paid \$329.20 at the same meeting as the result of a dead-heat between Brown Derby and Pumpernickel. Confusion Bay and Booat Bay were the winning combination at the 10th Extra Meeting when backers received \$127.90, while Sylvandale and Crifel paid \$479.70 at the 11th Extra. Piccadilly Jim and Baffin Bay were successful at the 12th Extra Meeting, the dividend here being \$173.20.

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until 31st December at—

HONG KONG

INGENOHL'S CIGAR STORES

KOWLOON

SOFTBALL

Only One Interesting Men's Match Tomorrow Chinese To Meet The Indians

Recreio Should Beat Canadians

By "Grandstand"

THE ONLY GAME OF ANY INTEREST IN THE SENIOR SOFTBALL LEAGUE TO-MORROW WILL BE THE CHINESE BASEBALLERS—INDIAN SOFTBALLERS TUSSELE SLATED FOR 4 P.M. ON THE KOWLOON FOOTBALL CLUB GROUND.

The Indian squad, under the management of left-fielder A. K. Omar, will go all out to take this game to be in the running for the pennant, and their regular nine will be fielded, Kassa Nazarin and Tarzan Ismail forming the battery, while their infield artists will be first-sacker "Romeo" Hamet, Second-sacker R. A. "Baby" Abbas, third-sacker Obar "Shorty" Arculli, and short-stop A. R. "Huckjail" Kitchell.

Tuffy Chinn, Chinese ace-hurler, who was almost blinded by Mahawk Lou Leight's blasting line-drive through the box a fortnight

ago, will probably assume mound duties, if in condition, otherwise "clutch" hurler George White will toe the rubber, with Nip Lum receiving as usual.

Base guardians will be Tommy Chan, first; Earl Wong, second; Henry "Crooner" Ruel, third; and Wally Ching in the windy alley. "Doc" Molthen, Nick Beltrao and Harry Campos are in charge of this game.

Aces Should Win Easily

At 1.30 p.m. the Recreio Aces take on the Canadian Chinese in

LADIES' TEAM FOR BOXING DAY

The Selection Committee has chosen the following to represent the Ladies' team against the Kowloon Police on Boxing Day. Pitchers will be Mary Ng, Theresa Noronha, Thelma Collaco and Efigina Bahida, with catchers selected from Dot Louie, Jackie Anderson and Cynthia da Motta. First-sackers will be Yvonne Yollo and Irene Pereira; key-stones, from Clanny Remedios, Celeste Marques, and Ulian Khoo, whilst the hot corner will be guarded by Gloria Marida Castro and Alice Mar. Shortstops will be Lily Mar, Iren Castilho and Virginia Xavier.

Outfielders will be from Theresa Marques, Gladys Hutchison, Jeannette Yollo, Jay Wong and Mary Mar.

DULL GIRLS' GAMES

By "Grandstand"

The three games on the card for to-morrow will be rather dull affairs, starting with the Wildcats-Cardinal tilt at 9 a.m.

The Untamed Felines, still smarting under the defeat handed out to them last week by the Green-shirted Wahoes, should find Colonel Dave "I Hope So" Walker's Redbirds easy pickings. Two new players, Alice and Sylvia Tsang, have joined the Redbirds and will probably be seen in action this week, and I have been given to understand that they have played ball before. However, seeing's believing!

Efigina Bahida, regular hurler, will start on the mound with Marina Wilson behind the batter, whilst Kitty Bush, "Gilly" da Motta, Betty "No Hit" Fitzgerald and Gladys "Grandma" Hutchison will grace the base-paths. The Wildcats will start their Thelma Collaco-Cynthia "Sailor" da Motta battery, with Irene "Sluggo" Pereira, Thelma da Motta, Lily "Sunshine" Mar and heavy hitting Gloria Mar forming the infield.

Following this tilt, the Wahoes clash with the Chung Hwa lassies, cellar champs. Although the game should be easy, Coach Hall Wing-lee will keep the same infield, but has promised all the reserves a game.

Canuckettes Should Maintain Record

The slogging Canadian Chinese will next meet the Recreio Ramblerettes, and the odds are on the Canuckettes maintaining their 1,000 average to head the league.

Hurler Mary Ng of the Maple Leafs, having regained her mangle touch, should be able to make the Ramblerettes eat out of her hands. The Recreio battery will be Jerry Jorge and Melville Campos.

their return encounter, and, judging from the Canuck exhibitions in the first round, they will not be able to put up much of a fight against the Aces, who will start Gerry Gosano on the hill with Charlie Figueiredo behind the bat, whilst speed ball Herbie Quon and C. Yu Chan will form the battery for the Canucks. Umpires for this game will be Harry Campos, Vancy Marques and A. M. "Sunburn" Omar.

Silva-Netto Key Man

Immediately after this game, the Filipinos tangle with the Cyclones. In spite of the fact that the Filipinos have improved in their fielding, the Cyclones should have no difficulty in making short work of the Islanders, having regard to the much superior pitching of "Kelly" Silva-Netto, who will be on the mound again for the Cyclones.

Tatong Amper will be chucking to Bob Laurel for the Filipinos.

Herbie Quon, Charlie Figueiredo and Geegee Lee will be the arbitrators for this tilt.

V.R.C. EXPECTED TO BEAT SOUTH CHINA

By "Grandstand"

MAIN ATTRACTION of the three-game Second Division Softball League schedule for to-morrow will be the V.R.C.-South China curtain-raiser at 9 a.m. at the Chatham Road Military Football ground.

As matters stand at present the V.R.C. nine is still undecided as most of the players will be occupied with the Shell-Hong Kong Bankers inter-hong clash, but in spite of this, Bimby "Caranabo" Abiong, flashy short-stop of the Vics, is willing to give odds on this game.

Both teams, having lost only one game apiece, are still in the running and are equally confident, but in view of heavier hitting, the Victorians are tipped to take this important game. Bill Quon will be tossing in to handsnatcher Cecil "Sparks" Wingles for the South China squad, while the V.R.C.

TO-MORROW'S SOFTBALL PROGRAMME

Following is the softball programme for to-morrow:—

SENIOR LEAGUE

Kowloon Football Ground
Recreio Aces v Canadian Chinese
(Campos, Marques and A. M. Omar.)

(1.30 p.m.)
Cyclones v Filipinos
(Quon, Figueiredo and G. G. Lee.)

(2.45 p.m.)
Indian v Chinese
Softballers v Baseballers
(Molthen, Beltrao and Campos.)

(4.00 p.m.)
JUNIOR LEAGUE
Chatham Road
South China v V.R.C.
(Higgins, Lawrence and Fittinghoff.)

(9.00 a.m.)
Recreio Aces v C.B.A.
(Wingles, Ng Chung-wah and Izatt.)

(10.15 a.m.)
Chung Hwa v 8th R.A.
(Welford, Philips and Foley.)

(12.45 p.m.)
LADIES' LEAGUE
Kowloon Football Ground
Wildcats v Cardinals
(Mendonca, Wingles and Abiong.)

(9.00 a.m.)
Wahoes v Chung Hwa
(Molthen, Nip Lum and Walker.)

(10.30 a.m.)
Canadian v Recreio
Chinese v Ramblerettes
(Hal Wingles, Al Lau and B. S. Chung.)

(Noon.)
INTER-HONG LEAGUE
Marina Ground
Shell v Hong Kong Bankers
(Laurel, Marques and Ribeiro.)

(10.30 a.m.)
Cables v Laos
(Abiong, Barradas and M. Souza.)

(11.15 a.m.)

SHELL SHOULD BEAT BANK

By "Grandstand"

In the opener of the inter-hong twin bill, the Shells meet the Hong Kong Bankers at 10 a.m. to decide the League leadership, both teams having won two games and lost none.

It is understood that the Gosano brothers who form the backbone of the Bankers, will not be available, and for that reason the Oilers are given the edge in this clash.

Bimby Abiong, star hurler of the Oilers, will probably also be unavailable, in which case the chances of either team winning breaks even.

At 11.15 a.m. the Lacas tangle with the Cables.

GOOD CRICKET MATCHES TO-DAY

By "Adrem"

ALL THE SENIOR MATCHES ON TO-DAY'S CRICKET PROGRAMME LOOK INTERESTING AND SOME VERY KEEN FINISHES SHOULD BE SEEN.

At King's Park, Recreio are down to entertain the Army but, judging from the fact that Pearce and Grise are playing for Hong Kong Cricket Club, it is possible that this fixture has been cancelled. I know the Army are kept pretty busy these days with camps and other duties.

Craigengower are turning out a useful side against Indian Recreation Club, whom they meet at the Valley, and it is possible that they will redeem themselves for some of their numerous past failures. I notice that B. R. Irance, who normally plays in the junior team, will be turning out for the first eleven, and E. A. Lee is back in harness again. J. L. Youngsaye, who seems to be batting better at the moment than he has done for some years past, is also turning out.

I.R.C.'s team will be much the same as usual although there is some doubt as to whether M. el Arculli, who has been on the sick list, will be available.

University will be at home to Civil Service and, notwithstanding some excellent performances recently, I cannot see them winning, as Civil Service are turning out just about the strongest side they possibly can.

H.K.C.C., even with Pearce and Grise in their team, will have to go all out to hold Kowloon Cricket Club, who are in splendid form at the moment. L. D. Kilbee will be making one of his rare appearances.

Junior Games

There is a full programme of junior matches and I expect Recreio, I.R.C., C.S.C.C. and K.C.C. to register wins, providing definite results are obtained.

Following is the programme and some of the teams:—

FIRST DIVISION

Recreio	v.	Army
C. C. C.	v.	I. R. C.
University	v.	C. S. C. C.
H. K. C. C.	v.	K. C. C.

SECOND DIVISION

Army	v.	Recreio
I. R. C.	v.	C. C. C.
C. S. C. C.	v.	University
K. C. C.	v.	Police

TEAMS

C.C.C. 1st XI—E. Zimmermann (Capt.), G. Souza, A. K. Ismail, B. I. Billimoria, A. J. Hulse, B. R. Irance, A. B. Harrison, E. A. Lee, W. Hong Sling, J. L. Youngsaye and M. C. Hung. Reserve: E. H. Esmail.

C.S.C.C. 1st XI—J. E. Richardson, K. J. Attwell, F. Baker, T. V. N. Fortescue, R. H. Griffiths, B. C. K. Hawkins, D. J. Hollidge, D. McLeellan, A. E. Perry, N. L. Smith and N. Whitley. K.C.C. 1st XI—N. D. Lloyd (Capt.), E. F. Fincher, D. J. N. Anderson, D. Hung, W. L. Rapley, R. T. Broadbridge, A. Zimmermann, F. R. Zimmermann, F. J. Lay, B. D. Lay and F. Goodwin. Scorer: T. W. Carr; Umpire: J. P. Robinson.

H.K.C.C.—T. A. Pearce (Capt.), L. T. Ride, M. F. L. Haymes, H. Owen-Hughes, L. D. Kilbee, D. C. E. Grise, J. L. Isley, W. J. Finnie, D. O. Parsons, D. S. Robb and C. W. E. Bishop. C.S.C.C. 2nd XI—H. E. Strange, G. Ainslie, J. Barrow, H. P. Cunningham, G. Davidson, H. F. Harper, F. E. Lawrence, J. F. McGowan, G. Stone, A. Watson and A. M. J. Wright.

K.C.C. 2nd XI—S. A. Gray (Capt.), R. Baldwin, E. Curtis, L. R. Burch, K. M. Baxter, J. R. Luke, H. Brkenshire, R. Leigh, G. W. Giffen, J. W. Bertram and R. J. Fenton. Twelfth Man: F. Crabb.

C.C.C. 2nd XI—A. M. Omar (Capt.), A. Hung, J. W. Leonard, W. K. Way, S. Leonard, N. Broadbridge, T. Lock, O. M. Omar, U. H. Esmail, E. Mitchell and C. W. Lam. Reserves: T. Edgar and L. Choa.



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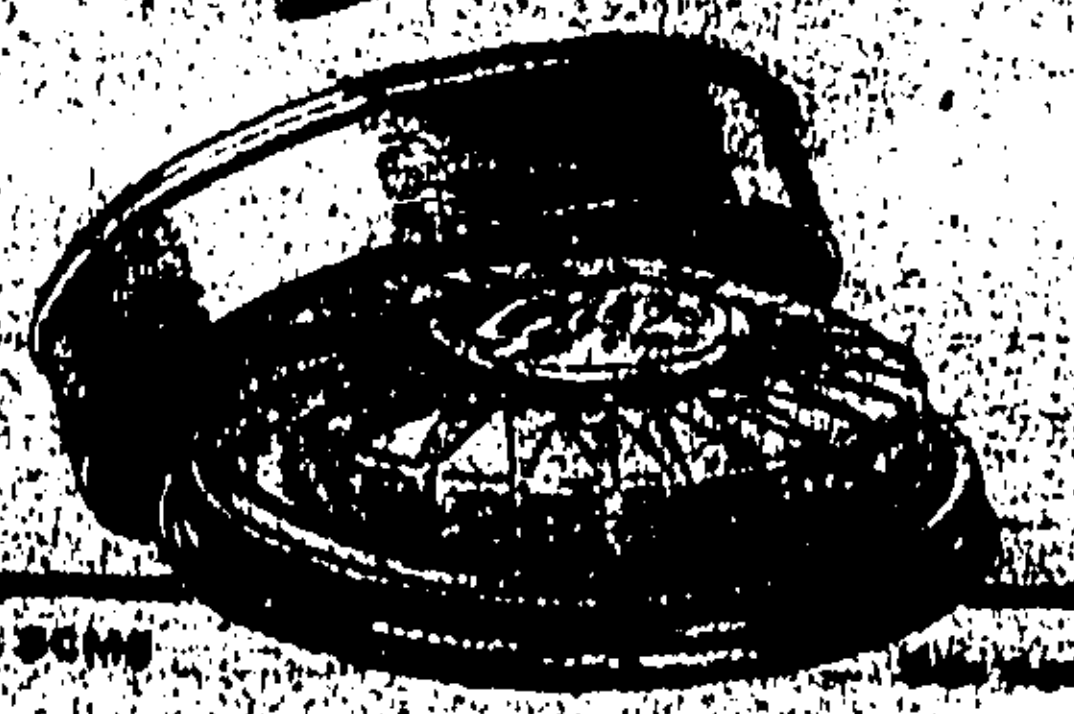
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THE SIEGE OF BARDIA

Most Encouraging News From Mediterranean

"AN AWFUL LOT OF NONSENSE"

Discussing the bases to be leased from Britain in the Caribbean, President Roosevelt yesterday said an "awful lot of nonsense" has been written about the delay in making arrangements.

Only in the case of Trinidad, Bermuda and Mayaguana were decisions being delayed.—Reuter.

ALBANIAN PORTS BOMBED

R.A.F. aircraft on Thursday attacked the Albanian ports of Valona and Krieneri, states an R.A.F. communique in Athens.

At Valona, military barracks, a petrol dump, motor transport park and buildings north of the town were hit and when the British aircraft left, columns of smoke were rising in the vicinity of the barracks and petrol dump.

Military Estimate Of Situation

(By Reuter's Military Commentator)

NEWS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN CONTINUES TO BE MOST ENCOURAGING, AND FOR THE MOMENT THAT AREA IS THE PRINCIPAL FOCUS OF THE WAR, WITH THE ITALIANS BEING HEAVILY HIT.

Bardia is invested, and the experience we have of Italian resistance indicates they are in no position or no mood to relieve it, for the British air service reports the only movement is westwards towards Tobruk or no movement at all on the only road which Graziani can use.

Moreover, a movement of our extreme left wing from Siwa seems in progress, for an Australian cavalry squadron had a very successful action near Jarabub some days ago. From here the road leads to Tobruk.

There is no reason for thinking the British operations will stop at the capture of Bardia. The British forces are well placed, both geographically and morally, to carry the advance forward as far as Tobruk.

Direct hits were scored in the Krieneri area, where buildings were set on fire.

All the British aircraft returned safely from all operations despite the activity of enemy fighters and A.A. fire.—Reuter.

Thereafter a second battle may be necessary for the capture of Benghazi.

Navy In Adriatic

In the Adriatic, the Navy has carried out a heavy attack on Valona itself and has threatened Durazzo.

Such action by sea will be most far-reaching in the campaign in Albania and its importance was foreseen in these despatches some days ago.

If the Greeks can only get their left wing forward along the coast and enter the narrow belt of low-lying country between Valona and Durazzo, they may be able to push forward far more rapidly than they can through the mountains between Podgradetz and Elbasan.

Such an advance would turn and cut off the whole system of Italian defence in these mountains at much less cost in men and time and with far more decisive results than could be achieved by merely pressing the Italians back on that line.—Reuter.

NAVAL SWEEP OF ADRIATIC

In the naval sweep of the Adriatic up to Bari and Durazzo, Britain has taken the war to the threshold of Italy.

In a series of devastating blows against Italian strongholds, the Fleet has proved it is complete master of the Mediterranean, which Italy claimed as "Mare Nostrum," and that it can operate with impunity in the Adriatic, Mussolini's so-called "inland sea."

The heel of Italy is only about 40 miles from Valona, yet while the Navy was pumping shells into that vital Italian supply port in Albania, the Italian fleet and planes apparently deemed it wiser to stay home.—Reuter.

SMOKING CONCERT

Civil Service Cricket Club are holding a concert at their clubhouse, Happy Valley, this evening when several well-known local amateurs will contribute towards the evening's entertainment, including Messrs: Hal Lorenzo, of Z.B.W. fame, Sipitsky, Minnihan, Frank Austin and others.

This concert is being held on a very modest scale and is intended to be a "feeler" as to whether a more elaborate one can be arranged in February when the Club holds its annual prize-giving.

According to one of the members of the Concert Committee, this evening's affair "is a very friendly one though the hat will be passed round in the course of the evening for the B.W.O.F."

STOP PRESS

Japanese semi-official reports in Tokyo this morning admitted an impending Japanese Government reshuffle is imminent as a sequel to a series of crucial overnight conferences between the nation's leaders.

Prince Konoye, the Premier, held nightlong conferences with Ministers representing political parties and big business circles.—Reuter.

A striking tribute to the British feats of arms in North Africa was paid by Colonel Khrononenko, writing in the "Red Fleet" in Moscow yesterday.

"The British," he says, "have succeeded in crushing no less than two Italian army corps, or half the Italian army on this front."

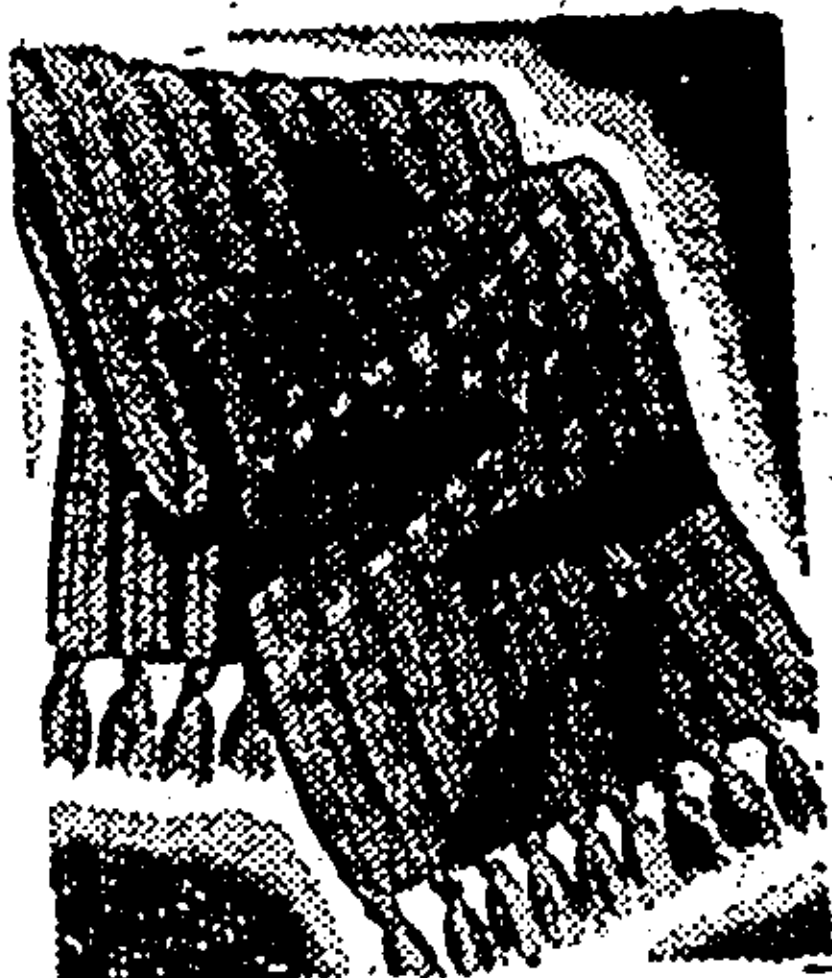
The writer praises British staff work which successfully co-ordinated land, sea and air forces in the attack on the Italians in the Western Desert, and adds that British naval supremacy, while preventing the Italians from bringing up reinforcements, also makes possible a British landing in the rear of the Italian battlefield.

He concludes: "The operations of the British troops in Africa may, in future, influence the struggle of Italian arms in the European theatre."—Reuter.

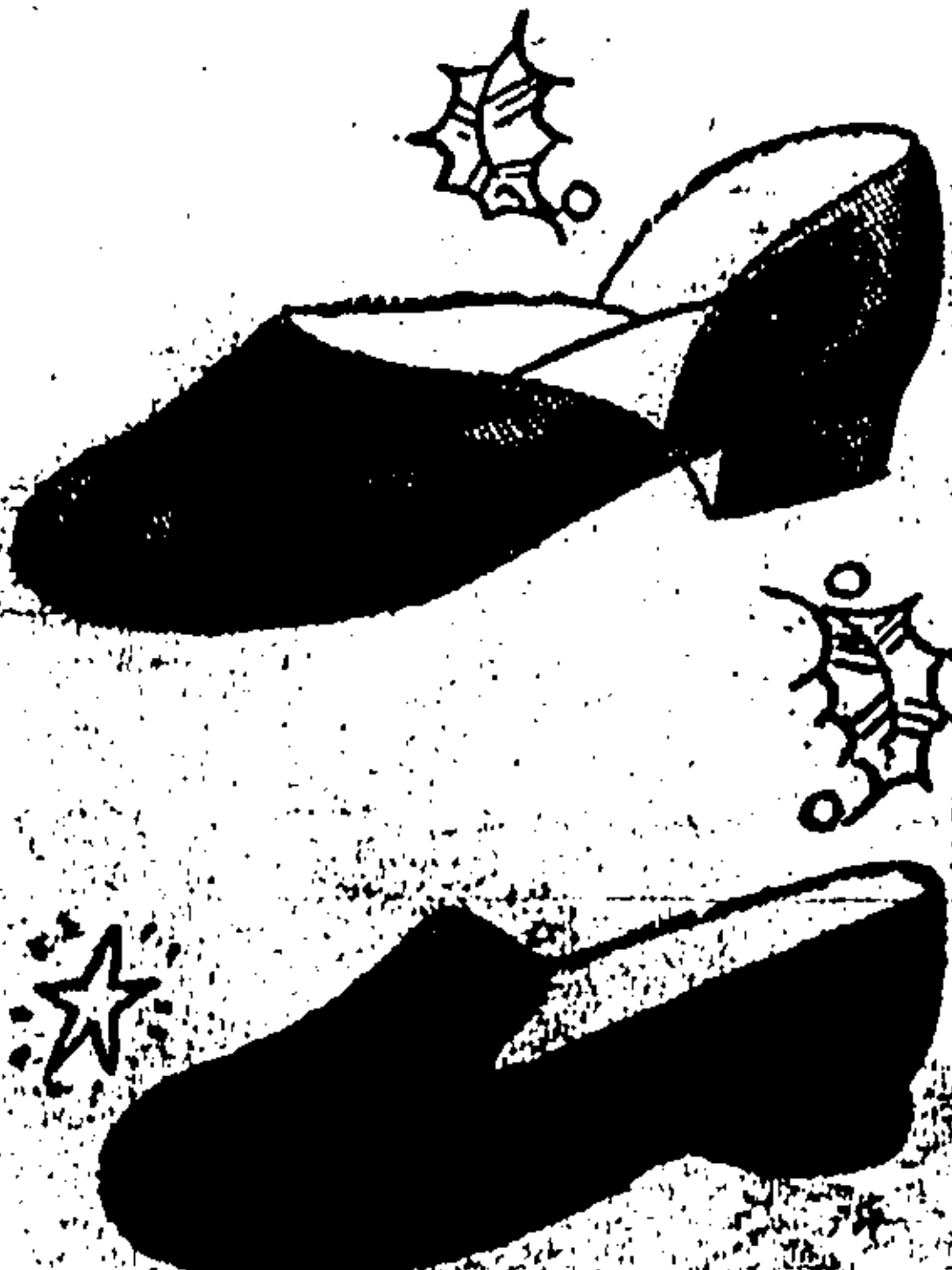
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BIRTH

GROUNDWATER—To Sybil, wife of Richard I. Groundwater, at Queenscliff, Melbourne, on 10th December, 1940, a son.

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